

“Tidbits from Then and Now” by Helen Davidson

The First 600

June 10, 1999 – December 15, 2010



*** Column Heading from Sam’s Good News Online Edition**

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Have you visited the Rutland Historical Society? Do you know where it is, or what they do or who does it?

The Rutland Historical Society is a non-profit organization, staffed entirely by volunteers. This year celebrates 30 years of service to the public by preserving and bringing the past to life for the people of the Rutland area. The Society is located in the old Nickwackett fire station on Center Street.

A committee meets on Wednesday mornings to process and preserve books and artifacts and another meets on Thursday evenings to process pictures and documents. Volunteers are on hand on Monday evenings and Saturday afternoons to help provide visitors with general information or research materials. The Society welcomes school classes and other organizations at pre-arranged times. Quarterly "magazines" pertaining to topics of Rutland's past, as well as a newsletter, are written by volunteer authors.

Presently the Society has an exhibit of Western Indian artifacts that were donated by Ella Bean Livingston. Some of you may remember Mrs. Livingston coming to the schools to display and tell about her collection for the school children. Portions of this collection can now be viewed by stopping by on Monday evenings or Saturday afternoons. Within the past couple of months, some young people from AmeriCorp visited the Society. One young man was quite surprised to find that the Indian photos displayed showed the reservation where his mother and grandmother had been raised. Rather small world, wouldn't you say.

The Society has a new Quarterly, now available, which features the story of a 1919 trip to the Gila National Forest which was written by Ella Bean Livingston and is edited by Angela Hinchey of the Society. The article includes photos which were taken by Ella in 1919.

Have you seen the Society's new series "Historically Speaking" on cable channel 15 in Rutland? You can catch it on Wednesdays at 4:00 pm, Thursdays at 1:30 pm and Fridays at 7:30 pm. Check it out.

Helen K. Davidson
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RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Want to have some fun with maps? The 1890 Sanborn Insurance maps of Rutland have become a semi-permanent exhibit at the Rutland Historical Society. Many adults and children have come to enjoy finding familiar streets and what was located there at the time. Stop in and have a look.

On Friday, June 4, a group of Senior Citizens from Sheldon Towers paid a visit to the Rutland Historical Society. Mo Tucker hosted the group and all were very pleased with his tour of the facility. They are particularly interested in revisiting the Society when changes are made in the Ella Bean Livingston Indian Collection.

The placement of steel shelving for books and documents in the Library on the second floor is moving along quite nicely. The installers (all volunteers!) expect to have it all set up by the 30 Year celebration on August 8.

The monthly Board meeting was held on Tuesday, June 8. The second Tuesday of the month is the regular day for the Board meetings. At this board meeting it was noted that there are over 500 glass plate negatives at the Society. This collection, which is very fragile, is currently being sorted--plates showing flowers & trees separated from buildings and people. The intent is to have the pictures from the glass plates identified and prints made. This is a very large collection and if anyone would like to volunteer time to help sort these plates, please contact the Society at 775-2006. There is an answering machine if no one is there at the time of your call.

Volunteer help could also be used to catalogue and store former exhibit materials.

The second "Historically Speaking" program is scheduled to be aired on Channel 15 on Wednesday, June 23. James Cassarino will be talking about the First Republic Brass and also the music of Rutland composers.

The Big Band program scheduled for Friday evenings from 7-9 PM through the summer at the Godnick Adult Center on Deer St. (off Woodstock Ave.) will start on June 25 with the music of Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller. Come one, come all. Free refreshments!

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Tidbits From Then and Now

by Helen K. Davidson

Recently there was a program of oral history about the old Ticonderoga that used to cruise Lake Champlain. Stories of people relating a romantic trip or family reunion cruises, etc. To our benefit, a unique story was missed in that series as Rutland's own Jean Ross had a very significant trip on the old Ticonderoga back in 1944. Her story follows:

I am Jean Ross. In 1944 I was 33 years old. Now I am 87 and live in a retirement home. I was hired by the Vermont Bankers Association in 1943 to research the state bank tax. I was paid 60 cents per hour. With the research completed, I had an informative booklet published, which was distributed to the members of the Association prior to the Annual Meeting. On June 17, 1944 the memorable meeting was held on the old side-wheeler, the Ticonderoga. The business meeting convened at 10:30 A.M. in the lounge. The principal item on the agenda was to decide what to do about the state's bank tax. For over 65 years the banks had been taxed on deposits. With the advent and growth of Mutual Savings Banks, Savings Banks and Trust Companies and National Banks, the state tax had reached as high as 27% of annual net profits. The Vermont bank tax was the highest in the nation.

The president of the Montpelier National Bank, Luman B. Howe and Mrs. Jean Ross conducted a lengthy discussion. They presented comparative figures from other states. They discussed the possible need for internal changes in bank management. The up-coming year would be an election year. Both candidates for governor had expressed an interest that the bank tax needed some reconsideration. The speakers at the bank meeting recommended that a new law be based on income. Put to a vote, the majority responded in favor of a tax on income. A committee was charged with hiring a CPA, and to plan a strategy to promote the tax change.

Subsequently, after that historic meeting on the Ticonderoga, Jean Ross testified before the State Senate Committee. When the Legislature met, both houses voted in favor of a bill to tax Vermont banks on income. Governor Mortimer R. Proctor signed the bill into law. It must be very interesting for Jean to see how local banks are being absorbed by larger out of town and even out of state banks. Yet she knows she made a difference for the Vermont Bankers Association. She's a local woman who not only researched history but made it!

The Rutland Railroad exhibit that was done by the Historical Society for the opening of the new station is on exhibit at the Society. There's even a big bell that the children can see and ring!

The Big Band program scheduled for Friday, July 2 from 7-9 PM at the Godnick Adult Center on Deer St. (off Woodstock Ave.) will present the music of Russ Morgan and Benny Goodman. Come one, come all. Free refreshments!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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We all know about the flood of 1947 and some remember the flood of 1927. Well, there was also a less known flood that involved downtown Rutland. It seems that a culvert was built underground to contain a stream coming off the hills above Merchants Row. At that time the Edson Street area behind Merchants Row contained houses and a lumber yard among other businesses. The area was called Edsonville. A March 26, 1863 article from the Rutland Weekly Herald follows:

"The warm rain yesterday rapidly melting the snow, and a partial stoppage of the culvert running across Merchants' Row caused a flooding of that small portion of our village known as Edsonville. The water commenced filling in about noon yesterday, and at 7 o'clock last evening was some three to five feet deep in places, rendering pedestrianism in said Ville entirely out of the question. The cellars were of course filled with water, and the lower floors of some of the houses, we understand, were flooded. The basement rooms of the buildings on the east side of Merchants' Row were also filled with water to the depth of nearly two feet, rendering necessary a hasty removal of goods, groceries, etc."

The Rutland Historical Society is housed in the renovated Nickwackett Fire House. There is a permanent exhibit of some of the fire fighters' equipment. The fire helmet on exhibit is fascinating--could anyone have had a head that small? Today's firemen would be hard put to even get it to fit. Even the horses left their mark. When you come in, ask to see the window frame that was chewed by the horses that pulled the fire engines!

Plans are moving forward for the 30 year celebration which will take place on Sunday, August 8th. Place that date on your calendar. A good time should be had by all. There will be a dedication/ marker ceremony honoring Julia Dorr, music by the First Republic Brass and a reception to meet authors of Rutland Historical Society books and Quarterlies.

The Big Band program Friday evening, July 9, from 7-9 PM at the Godnick Center presents the music of Vaughn Monroe and Harry James. Free refreshments! See you there.

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July 7, 1999

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Summer season---what would it be without baseball!!! This team is playing on a field on Pine Street that is now occupied by Maple Village, a senior community. Oral history tells us that the field was formed when the dirt was removed to make a hill for the Baxter Mansion (present site of Rutland Junior High School). The field was used during the 1920's for both football and baseball. On the right hand side of the picture is a popcorn wagon, which was owned by Billy Lampkins. His horse-drawn wagon was always welcome at any event in Rutland.

How many of you are aware that in 1938 the Rutland Royals, a Northern League professional team, often played before crowds of nearly 2000 people. The Rutland Historical Society would like to have anyone who has personal information about the people/games/etc. to let the Society know. This would be great material for a Quarterly.

Water, a real cooling experience for the summer. Where did you go swimming? The Rutland Pool? Rocky Pond? Or was it the water games in your own backyard provided by the trusty hose. What about picnics. Where have they gone--to barbeque? On the 4th of July in 1913, it was reported in the Rutland Herald that 6513 people took the trolley to the Lake Bomoseen Trolley Park for the day's activities. That night the trolley system had to marshall most of its rolling stock to get the people back to Rutland.

The Friday Dance Program at the Godnick Center on July 16 features the music of Sammy Kaye and Louis Armstrong. Free refreshments and a fun time for all ages.

Added to #7

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Recently a city ordinance was re-established concerning the responsibility of pet owners to "pick up" after their pets had deposited their "duty" in a public place. It may surprise some to find that this ordinance was already "on the books", but had not been enforced for many years. Modern technology has come up with a relatively new invention to make life easier for the animal owner. It is called the "pooper scooper." Guess what--modern technology is again reverting to an old remedy. The above photo is dated 1909-1913. It shows Alden B. (Hookey) Jackson, who was employed for many years by the city, operating a rather primitive "pooper scooper" in front of the Bardwell Hotel on Washington Street. He was Rutland's Pioneer "Whitewing". Apparently the title came from the white sanitation uniform he wore while performing his duties as a street sweeper. Remember, at this time horses were the main mode of transportation! His average pay during these years was \$400 per year or \$1.50 per day.

From the Rutland Herald of October 19, 1929: Pioneer Whitewing, Whose Abode was Streetcar, is Dead

Alden B. "Hookey" Jackson, Rutland's pioneer "Whitewing" is dead. The 72 year old retired city employee died at Rutland Hospital yesterday morning, following an illness of a few weeks. His 10 year old son, Elroy W. Jackson, whom he had supported during the past few years by the sale of shoestrings and pencils, was by his side when death came. He had been living in an old trolley car, remodeled into a two-room house on Strongs Avenue near the corner of River Street.

Jackson was one of Rutland's first street cleaners. He was born in Mount Holly on August 6, 1887, son of Mr. & Mrs. Sanford Jackson. He lost his arm when very young and derived the name "Hookey" from the fact that he had a hook at the end of an artificial arm. He is survived by one brother, Walter Jackson. Funeral services will be held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Salvation Army Hall.

Friday, July 23, the music of Guy Lombardo and Art Mooney will be featured at the Godnick Center. The entertainment and lemonade is free. Come to listen or to dance.

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During the summer it was very common for people to take the trolley to Lake Bomoseen. Many of you probably remember packing a picnic to enjoy while spending the day swimming, boating or just having a day to relax in the park. Where have these picnics gone--to cookouts and barbeques? Apparently picnic baskets are considered collectible antiques! Rocky Pond was another place where you could go swimming and picnicing. Although Rocky Pond was a nice spot and area businesses had worked hard to develop it, unsupervised use caused serious damage to the area and it only lasted a few short years. Then, of course, there was your own back yard and the trusty hose to keep you cool. But most fond memories are of Lake Bomoseen Park. The above picture was taken from an undated post card, but it only cost one cent to send!

On the 4th of July in 1913, it was reported in the Rutland Herald that 6513 people took the trolley to the Lake Bomoseen Trolley Park for the day's activities. That night the trolley system had to marshall most of its rolling stock to get the people back to Rutland.

The Friday Dance Program at the Godnick Center on July 30 features the music of Lawrence Welk & Count Basie. Free refreshments and a good time for all ages.

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Old Home Day, town festivities, class reunions--are they a fun time or a scary time? Will you remember who's who or what they look like now and will they even recognize you? Then, when it's over, what fun it was to see everyone and my how the town has changed.

These changes are precisely why an historical society needs to exist--to hold on to the "memories" of generations past and how they made a difference in the town's progress. The Rutland Historical Society is the "keeper" of many of the treasures of Rutland's past history and even things of today that will be the history of tomorrow.

Did you know that the Rutland Historical Society has the Rutland City Public School teachers' attendance records from 1899-1963? These give the names of the teacher and the students in his/her class. If someone would like to find out who his/her teacher or classmates were in a particular grade, the Society hours are 6-9 PM on Mondays and 1-4 PM on Saturdays.

On August 8th the Rutland Historical Society will celebrate its 30 years of existence. An afternoon of festivities has been planned that should be of interest to all Rutland area residents. The schedule follows: 1:00 PM--The dedication of a Vermont Historic Site marker noting the contributions of Julia C.R. Dorr. The marker will be located on Court Street between the Grace Congregational Church and the Rutland Free Library, two institutions which were very much intertwined with the public interests of Julia Dorr. 2:00 PM--The First Republic Brass will offer a one-hour concert of historic American music on the east lawn of the Society at 96 Center Street. Please bring chairs. The rain location will be in the Fellowship Hall of the Grace Congregational Church across the street. 3:00 PM--Contributors to the Society's highly successful publications program have been invited to attend an informal reception at the Society. The public is invited to meet these contributors and to tour the facilities of the Society. Refreshments will be served.

On Friday, August 6th, from 7-9 PM, the dance program at the Godnick Center features Frankie Carle and Billy Vaughn. Free admission and refreshments.

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Thank you Arlyn T. Hawley for spotting my typo re Hookie Jackson's birth date. There was also a very interesting letter from Johnnie Francis, who remembers many interesting facts about Rutland's past as well as more information about Hookie Jackson.

Hookie Jackson cleaned the Rutland streets with a partner, Jack Howard. They used the large metal barrel on two wagon wheels as was shown in the picture a couple of weeks ago. Rutland also had a very large metal tank full of water, on four wheels that was pulled by two horses. This water was sprayed on the streets to keep the dust down. (see picture, tank on left, from postcard dated 1904). They also had a horse-drawn "plow" to clear the sidewalks. According to city records, Hookie worked for the city until 1913. There is no record of him after that date. He apparently went to work for the Davis Feed Co. on Post Street. City records indicate that Jack Howard remained with the city and was caretaker of the city dump on Gleason Road.

The annual city reports have some very fascinating information about the streets, placement of manholes, residents, births, deaths, and other kinds of information you might want to find about Rutland's past. If you start browsing in these books, plan on a good length of time as once you get started, you'll want to keep going.

On Friday, August 13th, from 7-9 PM, the dance program at the Godnick Center features Eddy Howard & Bert Kaempfert. Free admission and refreshments.

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Baseball is in the hearts of everyone during the summer. The American Legion teams give their all and the fans love them. Rutland Post 31 may not have won the championship, but as the old saying goes, "it's not the winning, it's how you play the game". I'm not so sure that everyone feels that way in this day and age, but it was interesting to find an article about American Legion baseball and how it got started. The following article appeared in the March 1, 1929 *Rutland Herald*.

The "big league" baseball players will have nothing on the youth of Rutland, when they start for their training camps this month to begin spring "tuning up."

The minds of Rutland "sand lotters" have already begun to turn to baseball for the summer and active plans are being made for a baseball league. Last year a junior baseball league was conducted under the auspices of Rutland, Post 31, American Legion, in conjunction with the national Americanism commission of the Legion.

This year the same plan will be tried out. Under the rules of the national committee any boy who is under 17 years of age will be eligible to participate in the junior Baseball program.

Last year there were four local teams: the Cadets, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus; the Giants, sponsored by the Exchange Club; the Longfellows, sponsored by the Rotary Club and the Yankees, sponsored by the Rutland Lodge of Elks.

The Yankees won the local series and the county tournament, defeated the Ludlow team in the Burlington play-off and were defeated by a team representing Burlington Post American Legion, in the championship contest, after an 11-inning game.

Does it seem that this league has grown in the past 70 years? We now have the Northern and Southern Tournament of American Legion baseball, with young men preparing to go on to college baseball. Then we have the Mighty Mites and the Little League teams hoping to be in the American Legion League that apparently started the whole thing! Great sport!

Articles like this can be found in the old *Rutland Herald*s that are on microfilm at the Rutland Free Library. Our youth should know that there is a wealth of interesting and informative information there for them to browse. (some is great fun to read).

On Friday, August 20th, the dancing/listening program at the Godnick Center from 7 to 9 PM will feature Ray Conniff and Herb Alpert. This is the last program for the summer season. Don't miss it! The program has been well attended and will be back for the third year in 2000 (wow, how time flies!).

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Ever heard the expression, "As phony as a three dollar bill"? Well the pictured \$3 bill is a photo copy of one of the original "real" bills issued by the Bank of Rutland in 1863. Wasn't so phony back then!

The "computer generation" is capable of day-trading in the stock market. The results are up and down and are usually beneficial if you are wise to the ways of investing. It can be an exciting and profitable or scary and losing experience. Times have not really changed that much as noted in a letter from the Rutland Herald on Friday, March 1, 1929.

During war times, from 1861 to 1865 and after, sheep men made lots of money on wool and there is a story about John W. Cramton, who ran a tin cart and bought sheep pelts, calf skins and such. He was a heavy buyer of wool, in company with a man named Carpenter. The two had bought thousands of dollars worth as a speculation. Wool went up and up, 70 cents, 80 cents a pound. Cramton wanted to sell and take his profit. Carpenter wanted to hang on longer and get more. Cramton sold his half to Carpenter at the going price. The trade was made and wool began to drop and drop. Carpenter was left a poor man and Cramton was rich, so much so that he became president of the Baxter National Bank in Rutland in 1884 and died well off.

Then there was a Castleton man who occasionally speculated in wool. When wool got to 75 cents a pound he held for \$1. It went to \$1. Then he wanted \$1.25. Then wool began to drop and drop. He finally sold it for 50 cents a pound. He came out just like some who speculate in the stock market. He hung on too long.

By the way, it was in the fall of 1929 that the stock market crashed!

Remember to watch *Historically Speaking* on Channel 15, Wednesdays at 4:00PM; Thursdays at 1:30PM and Fridays at 7:30 PM. There is a different program every two weeks concerning local history.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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In years past, school always started after Labor Day. Now it starts in late August. As the students return to school they seem most interested in what may have changed during the months they were on summer vacation.

Berenice Tuttle who graduated in the class of '97(1897 that is!) kept a diary of her high school years from which the following newspaper article was extracted. During the Fall of 1896 a Rainy Day club was formed in the high school. In the Spring of 1898 this club was reorganized by some 60 young women of Rutland. On March 25, 1898 the *New York World* carried the following story about a rebellion in Rutland by the members of this young ladies group:

Short Skirts Awake Civil Strife in the Staid City of Rutland

"It all began one muggy day last fall when the pretty assistant preceptress at the high school wandered in to take charge of her classes in a close fitting frock of dark blue, which ended abruptly an inch or two above the ankle. Now, all New England shudders at the sight of an ankle!" The shock of the professor was very apparent, but he was reluctant to confront the woman, noting the "look on her face". She was tired of the long skirts dragging through the mud and holding water, causing many to catch colds and even pneumonia. The club members grew from one to six in a week. Rutland's young women retired to the privacy of their rooms only to come forth with shorter skirts. The scandal spread. Reports of short skirts met on highways set the town agog. The Mothers' Meeting and Home Sewing Circle took immediate steps to suppress this depravity in their midst.

"Not a daughter of mine shall appear in such immodest dress," declared one Mayflower Dame in great heat. "Never!" echoed the mothers who went forward to fight. The degenerate priscillas [apparently a name for rebellious girls] flaunted their short skirts in the very teeth of their enraged parents. Some parents tried to drag their daughters from the street by force and tugs of war were a common sight on Rutland streets. Meanwhile the Rainy Day Club members gathered statistics to prove that the occurrence of colds among members were significantly reduced by the shorter skirts.

"Pneumonia skirts" are now a thing of the past. The Rainy Day Club had won the battle. Among the members of the rebellion were many daughters of Rutland's finest families: May Sawyer, daughter of the President of the Board of Aldermen, Aida Skelles, Lucy Cheney and Helen Smith. "Their crowning glory is the fact that they are besieged with letters from all over New England. Other 'new women' Priscillas are about to follow in their wake."

Students today are not afraid to express their independence. Should the students of 1898 be considered belligerent or just leaders in making life better for all? As a high school graduate of 1897, Berenice Tuttle notes that "it seems hardly necessary to say that any truth is hard to find in this article...". Was Berenice right or was there more truth to the story than she wanted to admit? Why would she save it in her diary? Wasn't it in the fall of 1896 that the club originated?

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

What is a more wonderful sight than the appearance of a ferris wheel, a fried dough wagon, the many events that fill the grandstand? Everyone will know that the annual fair has arrived. How many remember the parades that brought the fair or the circuses to Rutland? The excitement that it created just to know it was that time again.

On September 3, 1999 the Vermont State Fair at Rutland begins. A Petting Zoo for children of all ages; Marionettes; racing pigs; llamas; fiddlers and many, many more things to see and hear.

The gates open at 10 AM unless you want to go to the Agriculture Gate at 8 AM. "One-price" \$10 for adults--children under 6 free, it includes parking and all the entertainment you could want. There are also special prices for special days!

Many changes have taken place over the years, but, the children (of all ages) still come to see the judging of cattle; whose rabbit will take the prize; who can grow the largest vegetables. And, of course, the rides. What about the "home made" gifts that can be found in the craft area! Or the pies & cakes, etc. that fill the air with great aroma--or was that the sausage & peppers wafting by?

How many of the fair goers know that there is one little known "visitor" to the Rutland Fair. He appears from a hiding place on the fairgrounds, possibly around the farm museum. He has even dug up some old bottles to donate to the farm building. How did he know where they belonged, or is he just showing off an unusual talent.

Who is he? They call him "Willie"--"Willie the Woodchuck". Just look at that guilty face!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

With school back in session, it seems likely that the PTA's, PTO's, Parent/Teacher conferences and that type of group or meeting will also begin.

Years back when parents were advised that we were neglecting our children if we didn't go to such meetings (PTA), either a single parent would go while the other babysat or a babysitter was required. Rush through supper, get the babysitter, give instructions to both sitter and children, dress in "go to meeting" clothes and make the meeting in time to support the parent count for your child's class. The main speaker rises, only to tell you that the best thing you can give your child is "quality time". Now, tell me again, why did I have to come to this meeting?

Today, the school is not necessarily in your neighborhood. Parents have appointments on days set aside for consultation about a child's progress (or lack of such). Dancing lessons, music lessons, karate lessons, sport team practices, Sunday Schools are all back on the "to do" calendars.

Think about all the organizations that will be resuming their monthly meeting schedules now that fall is approaching. Over the years many groups got together to share common interests, (Granges, quilting bees, card clubs, homemaker clubs, 4H clubs) just to mention a few. Not only did they do a lot of community good, but also personal good. People could share common problems and help each other come up with solutions, be it civic clubs or private clubs--there was chatting and sharing.

With the diminishing tide of neighborhood clubs, another type of club has emerged--a more financially oriented type. Sports Boosters, Veterans Clubs, Music Clubs, etc.. All are still doing good works for the community, but have they lost the personal touch--the sharing of common interests?

Today's busy world seems to be turning toward "finding one's self" and more groups seem to be forming to help do that. Where oh where have the old clubs gone. Oh where oh where can we find "quality time"!?

Speaking of meetings! On Wednesday, September 15, 1999, the Rutland Historical Society starts its fall program schedule. This first meeting will be held at the West Rutland Office Building in the Selectmen's Room. The topic is "The Marble Quarries of West Rutland". It will be a panel discussion and begins at 7 PM.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

The police station has been housed in City Hall since Rutland became a city, but, in the new millennium, the police will have a new home, not too far away from where they have been for so many years. The following notes are excerpts from the Report of the Chief of Police in the December 31, 1904 City Report:

The police force as now organized consists of a chief of police and five regular officers including the chief; 46 special officers, found to be men of good judgement, temperate habits and unfailing courage, all of which are essential in the makeup of a good officer.

CONCERNING COMPLAINTS:

During the past year complaints have been made that the curfew ordinance was not being strictly enforced. Regarding this, as long as parents allow their children under the required age to attend dances, bazaars, public gatherings etc. that keep them out until a late hour, the police are powerless to do other than to keep them from loitering on the streets. [sound familiar?]

CONCERNING CRIMINAL ELEMENT:

During the past year the city has been comparatively free from criminals of a desperate character. The city and vicinity have been considerably bothered by organized bands of chicken thieves, one of which was broken up last spring by the arrest and conviction of seven of the eight members. [still sounds familiar--but not chicken thieves!]

ACCIDENTS AND DISORDERS:

During the past year the city has been comparatively free from accidents and disorders of a serious nature, no cases having occurred that required the interference of the police. [don't we wish!!]

RECOMMENDATION:

It is suggested that the maintenance of a patrol wagon for the police department would increase the efficiency of the department. It would obviate the necessity of having to carry persons under arrest, who are violent and obscene, through the streets followed by large crowds who naturally hamper the officers in the discharge of their duty. This improvement is not an absolute necessity, but its inception would give the public a quicker and altogether more satisfactory service. [wonder if they got the wagon!!]

INVENTORY OF POLICE PROPERTY:

1 roll top desk, 1 leather bottom desk chair, 6 leather bottom office chairs, 1 long center table, 1 cane bottom office chair, 1 waste paper basket, 3 cuspidors, 1 floor brush. This property is in good condition. [are any of these things still there?]

Clothing: 5 overcoats in fair condition, 2 overcoats in good condition, 2 overcoats in poor condition, 5 caps, new, 6 helmets in good condition, 4 helmets in fair condition, 12 helmets in poor condition.

Supplies: 6 pair handcuffs, 6 pair twisters, 6 service clubs, good, 2 service clubs, poor, 4 flash light tubes, 3 pocket lights, 1 dark lantern, 6 parade sticks, 6 leather holders, 7 belts, 1 set leg irons, 1 snow shovel.

Worn out and destroyed: 1 feather duster, 1 floor brush, worn out; 3 mattresses and 4

#150mk

pillows destroyed as filthy and unsanitary; 2 soil buckets destroyed by violent prisoners. [thank goodness for modern appliances!]

The picture of two policemen talking to a local merchant is typical of the uniform of this period of time.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Quite often when someone moves to an older home there are treasures to be found in the attic, cellar or even the garage. These usually consist of school papers, professional papers, pictures and even diaries and notebooks. DON'T THROW SUCH THINGS AWAY! At least not until you have checked with the Historical Society to see if your find is something they would like to preserve. Recently one such collection of diaries, letters and small advertising notebooks were donated to the Society. The following "poem" came from a little advertisement notebook entitled "Mrs. Riley's Evening Party". Dated 1895 and not a priceless thing, but lots of fun to read.

*Mrs. Riley gave a party to her friends the other day,
And her guests were gay and hearty, for she made a great display.
Every male and female sinner who attended at her call,
Had a most delightful dinner and it pleased them one and all.
But at first poor Mrs. Wiley said she had no appetite,
And appealed to Mrs. Riley, who with promptness set her right.
She produced a little bottle, made a dose of fizzing stuff,
Which her guest poured down her and got appetite enough!
There was eating, there was drinking, of the best in every kind,
There was even food for thinking, for the most reflective mind.
But the artful Mrs. Riley, to relieve a mental strain,
Had provided, very slyly, Bromo-Seltzer for the brain.
Mr. Flanagan, the plumber, went there in his Sunday clothes,
And O'Hooligan, the drummer, full of travelers' great woes.
He informed his hostess shyly that his journey made him sick,
So he got from Mrs. Riley, Bromo-Seltzer very quick!
There were ladies old and youthful, there were maidens grave and gay,
Some were false and some were truthful in the things they had to say.
Some were strong and some were weakly, some with nervousness were curst,
Some protested very meekly, that their heads would surely burst.
Mrs. Riley, clever woman, was at hand to see to these,
All the nervous ailments human, she could guarantee to ease.
Pain of long or short enduring she declared that she could save,
And she speedily was curing when she Bromo-Seltzer gave.
When the floor was cleared for dancing and the music sweet began,
In the mazy whirl entrancing went the maid and her young man.
While the band played they were busy, when it stopped, they took a seat,
And the head of each was dizzy so they scarce could keep their feet!
Here, again, was Mrs. Riley, ready to relieve her guests,
To the dancers she said, dryly, "Here's what dizziness arrests!
If the giddy whirl you've felt, sir, if your head is swimming, miss,*

#16ent

*One small dose of Bromo-Seltzer, brings you back your peaceful bliss.
Time flew on, and the guests grew frisky, passing 'round the song and joke,
Also, demijohns of whiskey, and cigars for men to smoke.
Every visitor that night meant to of pleasure have their fill,
Even if the great excitement in the end should make them ill!
One young girl, respected highly for her beauty, sense and grace,
Whispered unto Mrs. Riley, she'd neuralgia in the face.
Promptly then from it to free her, the old lady once again
Introduced her panacea--Bromo-Seltzer, foe to pain.
To her guests, ere they departed, Mrs. Riley wisely said,
"Dawn perhaps will find you started with a most colossal head!
But you'll check it very quickly and relieve it from all ache,
Nor know aught of feeling sickly, if you Bromo-Seltzer take!"*

Mark your calenders for Wednesday 29 September "A War of the People: Vermont Civil War Letters" Jeffrey D. Marshall, Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 7:00 PM.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

The wonders of fashion are something to be held in awe. Today many of the clothes are fashioned to flatter a woman's figure. Some collections of a different time, at the Rutland Historical Society, tell a different story. The picture, which is entitled "Old Maid's Convention" indicates that the fashion of the time was to cover as much of the figure as possible. Note the bustle on the lady standing on the left, which was "pure fashion of the time". Now, you young people of today say, "How was this accomplished?" The other picture of the strange looking object is actually that of a bustle, which, when attached around the woman's waist produced the necessary protrusion that would eliminate the viewing of the actual "shapely figure" of the woman. [note the springs--doesn't seem that it would be possible to sit very comfortably] It should also be remembered that there were several underskirts worn with this fashion as well. Then the upper body was corseted to produce a slender waist. Talk about being bound and gagged!! No wonder the "ladies" of that time had a tendency to "feel faint" and also carried "smelling salts" to revive themselves. The "glamour" of those times as shown in movies does not reflect the "torture" those women must have felt while trying to be stylish.

There was a time, in the not too distant past, when it was thought that women should not wear slacks! SHORTS?! Those were only for children.

On the same track--did you ever notice that men's clothing has also been through some changes. Note the properly dressed man in the picture--of course he seems to be encouraging a "tipping of the bottle". Men are no longer required to wear stiff collars or three-piece suits. Ties are optional, depending on the occasion. Generally hats are mostly caps denoting a favorite pasttime. Jeans are worn for most any occasion. Would you say that society has become much more relaxed?

Anyway, it's fun to come across something that the younger generations may not be aware of. There are many treasures that the Rutland Historical Society has in its possession. Many local classes have come to view the exhibits and see slides of the past and how people lived. The public is always welcome on Saturday from 1-4 pm and Monday evenings from 6-9 pm. Special arrangements can be made for groups to come at other times. There is a great staff of volunteers to help find information or just chat about the past.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

These interesting minutes are taken from the notebook of the H.E. Tuttle, Secretary of the Rutland Cracker Company.

The Rutland Cracker Company Association was formed on June 21, 1883, although the idea was born in 1881. The association would be a wholesale and retail manufacturer of crackers, bread, rolls and all kinds of fancy baked goods and foods. The Association would build buildings, storehouses, a factory and other buildings as needed.

The Articles of Association were filed on June 23, 1883 with the office of the Secretary of State. The Company had a capital stock of \$10,000. Each share would cost \$50. It was not until March 3, 1884 that the stockholders agreed to the number of shares each would buy. There were 5 shareholders. H.E. Tuttle purchased 5 shares, C.H. Boardman 10, C.A. Thompson 95, John S. Tuttle 5 and Nellie E. Tuttle 85.

The first meeting to organize a Corporation was held on July 21, 1888. By-laws were set up: 1. Annual meetings of the Corporation would be held the first Tuesday of January, each year; 2. Three directors would be elected for a one year term; 3. By-laws could be altered by a majority vote at any meeting.

A motion was made and approved that the Corporation would buy the bakery buildings of E.D. Keyes on the corner of West and Freight Streets, a dwelling house south of this and the lot on which they stood, as well as the entire baking business.

On May 27, 1889, two stockholders, C.H. Boardman and John S. Tuttle turned their stock over to Nellie Tuttle. At a stockholder meeting on July 29, 1889, there were only three stockholders. One of them, Mr. C.A. Thompson had loaned and advanced money in the amount of \$3,700. The Corporation executed a mortgage to repay him. Mr. Tuttle transferred only four of his five stocks to Nellie Tuttle, and the By-laws were amended so a meeting could be called with only a 2-day notice.

On December 4, 1889, the stockholders sold all real estate, stock in hand to a Mr. Miller and 100 shares of stock was transferred to him by Mr. C.A. Thompson. This wound up the business of the Rutland Cracker Company as far as the Association was concerned.

On July 25, 1890, Mr. C.A. Thompson resigned from the Association and a man from New York City filled the vacancy. Mrs. Tuttle, who held most of the stock at this point proposed that the Corporation buy all real estate and personal property being used in the bakery business on the corner of West and Evelyn Streets and assume

#18 cont

the \$6,000 mortgage held by Mr. Miller. Mr. Tuttle would be general manager of the Corporation and receive \$20 a week.

The City Directory of 1891-92 still records the Rutland Cracker Company at 2 Evelyn Street. Nellie Tuttle is listed as paying the taxes. After this year the Rutland Cracker Company does not appear in the City Directory.

Mr. C.A. Thompson went into business with Charles C. Freeman, as a proprietor of Rutland Bazaar at 51 Merchants Row. This business was "the biggest supplier" of fancy dishes etc.

Mr. E.D. Keyes was the owner of the property on Evelyn and Depot Square. Apparently only the single bakery store had been in the possession of the Corporation of the Rutland Cracker Company.

Mr. Tuttle is no longer listed as the Secretary of the Rutland Cracker Company, but in the 1895-96 directory, he is listed as a Commercial Traveler.

John S. Tuttle died in 1893.

Mr. Boardman, who had traveled extensively to the West Coast during the "Goldrush" years had returned to farming on his land in Center Rutland.

Nellie Tuttle, has only her home listed on the tax list of 1903-1906

Developing the Rutland Cracker Company Association may have been seen as a good idea at the time, but apparently was not as successful as thought. Would you say that as in any business--That's the way the cracker crumbles? [Sorry, couldn't help myself]

The Rutland Historical Society program on Wednesday, October 13, 1999 will be "A Photo Scanning Workshop" by Karen Sanborn, to be held at the Society building at 7 PM and 8 PM. There is a limit of 12 at each session. Pre-registration with a phone number is required.

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RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Last week I was reminded of the old ice cream parlors when I visited an assisted living home. It was well equipped with a beauty parlor, wonderful dining rooms and surprise of surprises, a real ice cream parlor with the old fashioned tables and chairs, the soda fountain with all the fancy spigots.

Where do you go after a movie today? Remember going for ice cream? Do the young people of today even know what an ice cream parlor is? The nearest "modern" show that I can think of that would come close to having an ice cream parlor is "Happy Days". But, what a fun thing it was to do after a movie, going in and ordering a float, a sundae, or a milk shake. Remember who made them for you? He (usually) or she was called a "Soda Jerk" and how did they get such a name? They had to pull on the handles of those big spigots to get the soda to come out!

Where did the Rutland folks go? They really had a wealth of places. The picture shown here is of Shangraw's, but there were many more according to long time Rutlanders. Besides Shangraw's you could find Carpenter's, Butterfield's, McLellan's Cederdale, Seward's and Valente's. Then of course there were the stores that had lunch counters, including Woolworth, Kresge, Fishman or Newberry. These stores had some great ice cream treats as well.

Fortunately, today we still have Seward's, T.C.Yogert & Ice Cream (right near the movies!) and of course Ben & Jerry's. But, are they open when you come out of the movies? Do they have the same atmosphere that the old ice cream parlor used to have or do we even look for such a treat in these days of watching cholesterol and fat units in what we eat?

Oh well, at least it's fun to remember the gathering of friends at the old ice cream parlor. Guess it's not just the wedding bells that broke up the old gang, it's called progress!

On Thursday, October 21, 1999, Tom Carpenter will present "Rutland Banks, Banking and Money" at the Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 8:00 PM.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Medical treatment has improved greatly over the years. Of course, some of the things that cured us in years past have been laughed at by current generations. If they only stopped to realize that if it were not for the "tests of the past" they wouldn't have anything to improve upon!

There does seem to be a trend, in some articles being published recently, that reflects the thinking of past generations and is acted upon as if it were a new discovery. What seems to work and is appropriate for one generation does not mean that it was not the right thing to do. You do the best you can with what you have at that moment in time.

My reason for stating this is that recently I was given a small tattered notebook that has pages dated 1833 and some 1840. It appears to be an account book of a doctor that has had some recipes handwritten on some pages. Over some of the doctor's accounting, there are some newspaper items glued. It is just fascinating and so the thought was to share some of the notes with you.

"Ogden Cough Mixture: 1 pint Jamaica Rum; 1/2 pint sweet oil; 1/2 pound honey and 1 tablespoon tar. Excellent"

"Uses of Baking Soda: Try powdered charcoal or magnesia, lime water or soda till you find which suits best, but have the latter ready, for a cup of hot soda water taken in time will often prevent the worst summer attacks of nausea and cramps. It may be your lot, as it has been mine more than once, to want soda for some victim in distress, only to find that neither house nor shop could produce a pinch of baking soda, obsolete since the advent of baking powder. Keep down the acid tendency and you prevent pimples, redness and rawness of the face, fishy eyes and unpleasant odor of the perspiration, all derived more or less from acids in the blood. With cool, healthy blood the heat is felt less, there is less tendency to freckles and sunburn.--Shirley Dare in New York Herald."

Then there's HAIR DYE!! "Preparation #1: Take 2 drachms [drams] sallic acid; 1 ounce alcohol; 3 ounces soft water. Mix all. After cleaning the hair well and drying, apply with a tooth brush. Let it dry well. Preparation #2: Take 2 drachms nitrate of silver; 1 drachm Spirits of Ammonia; 1 ounce soft water. Mix. After applyig #1 as directed, next apply #2 in like manner."

Fascinating? There's more for another time. But just this little book has brought a great deal of fun. How many of us remember "Father John's Medicine? Or that wonderful Sulfur & Molasses that cleaned our blood in the spring!? Cod Liver Oil, anyone!!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

That time of the year is here again. The leaves have given us their best of fall colors, the winds are taking them from their branches. Rakes are appearing in the yards and flower beds are being put to sleep for the winter. Even the nighttime comes earlier and suddenly the goblins and ghosts are appearing on people's porches. How many of our young people know that the Halloween Parade in Rutland, Vermont has been featured in many newspapers throughout the country.

Rutland was always ready for a parade, no matter what the occasion. Over the years many of the parades have been eliminated and now the major parades consist of celebrating Loyalty Day and Halloween. The following reports of the Rutland Recreation Department from 1958 through 1961 tell about the activities in the fall and winter of those years, and how Rutland celebrated Halloween.

1958-59: "The Halloween program was conducted with considerable success, due to the efforts of P.T.A. groups and the Mother and Father Clubs of the City Schools. Window painting of the downtown windows was held on the Wednesday before Halloween. Parties were held at the various grammar schools. A dance was held for the Junior High School students at the Rutland High Gymnasium and a dance for High School students was held at the Armory."

1959-60: "Fall and Winter programs consisted of Halloween Window Painting on downtown stores and parties held at various schools. Madison Street Recreation Center was also apparently opened during this period, with several different groups using this facility. Once again, skating rinks at Rotary, Meadow Street and White were in operation."

1960-61: "This report will deal mostly with the new programs which we have introduced this year" Among the new programs listed are Softball and Volleyball Leagues; Flag Football League; Junior Bowling League, Teen Town, Santa Claus Letters and Mailboxes, Adult Basketball League, Children's Dramatic Group, HALLOWEEN PARADE, among many other planned activities and trips.

Mr. Jack O'Lantern was in the news in 1958 and again in 1959 the papers reported that the Chief of Police suspected that Mr O'Lantern was again in the area and should be watched for in case he was up to any mischief. Mr. O'Lantern has been a real fun part of the parade over these many years.

Have a safe and happy Halloween and enjoy Rutland's famous parade!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

How do you celebrate Veteran's Day ? - November 11

After the Civil War the country was proud of their many young men who served in the cause of "Freedom for All". A special day was created to thank these courageous men who gave their lives. (many were very young boys who's patriotism was so strong that they felt the need to serve this cause.) The day was called Decoration Day.

World War I ended on November 11, 1918. This day became known as Armistice Day. A partial quote from the Rutland Herald shows the spirit and relief of the people in their celebration.

"CITY CELEBRATES. Blowing of Whistles and Ringing of Bells Signals War is Over, Brings out Thousands in Early Morning
Monster Parade Novel Features
Old and Young Join in Noisiest Demonstration in Rutland's History, Business Places and Schools Closed
---from shortly after daybreak until another day began this morning a glorified and many times magnified Fourth of July celebration was the city's demonstration with its continuous noise, music, flags and bunting, parades and unlimited hilarity, expressing the joy of old and young at the end of the War."

Armistice Day was celebrated every year after to honor the men who had served their country. Some time after World War II, the name of the celebration was changed to Veteran's Day (Trivia question: What year was the name changed to Veteran's Day?) This day celebrates not only the previous wars but other conflicts that American men and women have been involved in. The sacrifice of these men and women, whether by death for their country or by disability or even just the courage to serve and come home safely should always be remembered by future generations.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

THEN

The early 19th century was filled with great leaders of men, forging the way in a spiritual and civic manner for the future of their community. They were giants in the land. In Rutland there were many of them, among whom was Father Charles J. Boylan who came to Rutland in 1857 as pastor of St. Peter's Parish, whose church was located on lower Meadow Street. The parish outgrew the small church and in 1867, the "Ledge Lot" on Mechanics Street (now Convent Avenue) was purchased. A New York architect, Patrick C. Keely, was secured to design the new St. Peter's Church. Construction began in 1868. Stone was quarried from the very spot and when the bed of stone was leveled, the church foundation was placed upon it. After working their regular hours all day, the men of the parish toiled along with Fr. Boylan to construct a magnificent building.

Father Boylan was involved in many civic organizations and was beloved throughout the area. He died on December 4, 1886, and on the day of his funeral, factories, schools and many stores were closed. The words of Dr. Charles Woodhouse indicate the city's high regard for Father Boylan. "Rutland has great cause to be thankful that a man so wise, thoughtful, liberal and competent has....lived so long and labored so efficiently for her interests as did Father Charles J. Boylan. There is not a foot of ground in Rutland today that has not been enhanced in permanent value because of his having lived and been among us." Father Boylan is buried beside the church he built and loved. In 1889 a memorial statue was erected and it stands today over his grave.

NOW

There is a plan to restore the edifice built by Father Boylan and his parishioners. In some areas churches are being closed or merged because of a shortage of clergy. There are rumors that St. Peter's is one of those that will be closed. As an assurance that this is not so, the following excerpts are taken from a letter to the parishioners of St. Peter's from Bishop Kenneth Angell: "As the 'mother church' of Rutland County you have a proud history. You also have a bright future....as we move into the next century....your willingness to provide for the restoration and preservation of your beautiful church is an appropriate continuation of the sacrifice made by your parents, grandparents and great grand parents in years gone by. Through your efforts, now St. Peter's will continue to welcome parishioners for decades to come."

You can be assured that our ancestor's gift to Rutland County is here to stay.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

The colder season is upon us and the change in clothing makes a big difference when we're trying to keep warm. (The older you get the more the cold bothers--that's why many go south while we freeze in the north!)

An article by "The Housewife" in the 1800's tells us what should be worn for our own good health.

"Cotton is injurious when worn next to the skin. The fibre [sic] of which it is composed does not absorb the perspiration of the body, which is forced back again in a chilly state upon it. To wear linen or cotton is like bathing in cold water and putting one's clothes on without drying. It is certain to produce colds, and very frequently, if persisted in, induces a person so disposed to consumption. Wool alone is the material out of which, summer and winter, our undergarments (by which I mean those worn next to the skin) should be made. Wool is not impervious like cotton, it absorbs the moisture of the body and helps keep the skin at a comfortable, even temperature. It permits ventilation also, an excellent thing for the healthy skin.

In the form of vests, combinations [a one-piece undergarment combining shirt and drawers], and stockings, woolen fabric should therefore be worn and worn always. But you will possibly object. How uncomfortable it would be in summer to wear hot vests, and above all hot stockings! So it would, I admit. But it must be remembered that there are various degrees of thickness in woolen fabrics, and that it is therefore possible to adapt one's woolen clothing to the state of the weather. For example, there is thick lambswool for winter wear, and all-wool merino for summer of such gossamer [gauzelike fabric] lightness that you would not fancy it to be wool at all. One great point to be observed, be your clothing thick or thin, is that it be made of pure, unadulterated wool. You will have to pay more for it, certainly, than for a mixture of cotton and wool, but, with the great demand there has been of late for pure wool goods, the supply has come forth, and all wool clothing does not cost half of what it used to do."

Wouldn't the "housewife" be amazed with what has been done with cotton over the years? It should be remembered that even bathing suits were made of wool in the not too distant past! Anyway, keep warm, the Vermont winter is looming just ahead.

NOV 24, 1999

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Remember the Rutland Cracker Company? Recently this picture was found and shows that the company was located on the southwest corner of Evelyn and West Streets. Note the street sign on the upper corner of the building.

How about some of this old recipe to spread on those crackers?

"Baledonia Cream. Two ounces of raspberry jam, two ounces red current jam, sifted loaf sugar, the whites of two eggs. Put all into a bowl and beat with a spoon for three-quarters of an hour [!]. This is a mixture that is much used in Scotland as a delicacy."

With thanksgiving upon us, the following recipes might come in handy if you want to do it "like it used to be done".

"Baked Potatoes. Here is an excellent recipe for baking potatoes: Wash and boil them until nearly done, and then bake. They are much whiter and mealier than baked the old way, and it is quicker and an easier way."

"Fig Pudding. Chop half a pound of figs very finely; mix them with one-fourth pound of coarse sugar, a tablespoon of molasses, four tablespoons of milk, half a pound of suet, an egg and a pinch of grated nutmeg; put the pudding into buttered mold and boil [?] five hours."

"Apple Mince Pie. Sweet apples chopped, 4 tablespoonsful of sweet cream, 3 tablespoonsful of sugar, spice to taste; baked with 2 crusts."

Oh yes, this is after you prepare the turkey!

"To utilize the feathers of ducks, chickens and turkeys, generally thrown aside as refuse, trim the plumes from the stump, enclose them in a tight bag, rub the whole as if you were washing clothes, and you will secure a perfectly uniform and light down, excellent for quilting coverlets and other purposes."

Have a modern and Happy Thanksgiving!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

There is nothing new about the game of Hockey!

Recently while looking through material that is at the Historical Society a question was raised as to why 6 programs from the North Avenue Ice Palace of Baltimore, MD were among the articles. Why in the world would the Rutland Historical Society keep programs from there? Well, it was speculated that "someone must have saved it for some reason." Upon further investigation it was found that William R. Pond, a Rutland native was a student at the University of Maryland and a member of that Hockey team. It is also speculated that he must have gotten his playing background in Rutland!

A drawing of the Maryland University team. William R Pond is seated on the floor.

Today Rutland is in the process of encouraging the building of a hockey rink. Let's hope other young men can succeed in the sport as well as William Pond did over 100 years ago! I can say that without the usual "mother's anxiety" toward the sport, as my sons are all grown!

Just keep in mind, when disposing of materials saved by "someone" over the years, let the Historical Society decide if there might be something to be saved that will remind the future generations how things used to be.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Here we are preparing for Christmas again. Santa has arrived in Rutland as he has been doing for many years. This picture was taken approximately 40 years ago.

Exerpts taken from an article in the Rutland Herald, November 25, 1949:

Wide Variety of Toys Available in City for Rutland Youngsters

Under Christmas trees this year of families with children will be toys of every size, shape and description, if the local stores are any indication.

Dolls are a big item this year as they are every Christmas--added to the usual baby dolls are movie, comic strip and cowboy characters with wardrobes. The modern trend in baby dolls which used to say "Mama" is now they say "I want my Mammy."

There are trucks that move and stop and the driver looks out the window and continues on. There is the mechanical line of miniature farm machines, complete farm set-ups with a cow that drinks water.

The household trend is evident in the little girls' playthings. Miniature dishwashers, washing machines, clothesline sets, elaborate sets of dishes, doll houses furnished up and down and modern sweepers.[What in the world are sweepers, you say!! and girls, don't be insulted with the totally feministic touch, remember this list was made 50 years ago.] An outstanding cuddly animal is a wooly dog, which (when wound up) hops to his owner.

The sports-minded youngster is not forgotten. The newest toy is a basketball set--small scale backboard, net, court, ball and a bell that rings when a basket is made. A futuramic airport set--complete flying field, hanger, radio tower and a plane that makes all kinds of maneuvers by pushing a series of switches.

There are train sets, sleds, bicycles, Kiddy cars [Those were really fun--you "peddled" with your feet], rocking chairs and roller skates [no, not roller blades, but just as much fun], baseball bats, gloves, ice skates, footballs, hockey sticks [these, thank

goodness, are still in style], and just about anything you can name.

Most of the above mentioned toys are now considered antiques. Imagine, it's only been 50 years, but compared to the toys today, they would seem rather dull to today's children who have Pokemon!!, Play stations, Electronic- just about anything you can name. Anyway, happy shopping, remember you're shopping for the kids, not yourself!

Dec 22, 1999

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

It seems that the years have been good to the Santa who spreads Season's Greetings.

This 1909 post card denotes a slim, green suited, very serious Santa with a long flowing beard, carrying his heavy pack with the aid of a walking stick.

Now, 90 years later, Santa is red-suited and has a jolly twinkle in his eye. His beard is fluffy white. Apparently riding around in a sleigh [because of the increase of miles he must travel] has caused him to gain a great deal of weight!

Both post cards carry the same message that the Rutland Historical Society sends to all:

"Seasons Greetings"!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

A new year approaches with more problems than you can count. Why? Because during the 20th Century mankind was very busy developing all kinds of things to make life easier. They developed the horseless carriage into a sleek automobile; even went so far as to start races which developed into NASCAR events. They lit up the streets with electric lights instead of gas lights; turned washboards into washing machines. Then they took those cars and copied birds and got them to fly. Now instead of taking days or even months to get to another country, you can fly there (in a plane, of course) in a few hours. We have people invited into our homes via the television. When TV was first developed, my grandfather was sure that the leprechauns were involved in this trickery. Then instead of mail we have computers with E-mail to communicate with our friends and family or even purchase products. (Y2K will not be discussed here as that seems to be one of the problems!) Man has even gone into the space that surrounds our planet. What will the 21st Century bring?? As we approach the year 2000, we step onto the threshold of the 21st Century. When we reach 2001 we can celebrate our entry into the new Millennium.

This rock is a recent accession of the Rutland Historical Society. It is believed to have been done for the New Year in 1900. What a modest beginning to a spectacular century.

The 1909 post card extends a HAPPY NEW YEAR to all of you, from the Rutland Historical Society.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Browsing through back issues of the The Rutland Herald can become as addictive as doing genealogy research. The following human interest article appeared in the January 18, 1900, issue.

"A Runaway Engine

Engine Gen. J. G. McCullough, No. 14, of the Bennington and Rutland railroad took a spin all by herself down the line Monday morning and was finally captured this side of Wallingford after doing no other damage than demolishing a hand car. A new hand at the Bennington and Rutland engine house took the engine out to the coal pile shortly after 7 o' clock to coal her up. He pulled the throttle wide open and then, becoming scared, tried to bring the big engine to a standstill. He failed to do this and, losing his head, jumped to the ground. No. 14 started down the track at a fair speed and was soon out of sight. Near the Cold river woods the engine came up with a gang of five men on a hand car. They did not hear the engine until it was close upon them, when they jumped off the car and waved their hats to the supposed engineer to stop before he should strike the car. In another moment the car and its load of tools were flying through the air and the section men saw that the cab in the the engine was empty. The fires in the engine were low and she soon began to slacken her speed. Engine No. 12, which was sent out from here to chase the runaway, found No. 14 nearly at a standstill this side of Wallingford.

The F. B. Jennings (above) was a sister [or same kind of] engine to the runaway J. G. McCullough. The F. B. Jennings was rebuilt as the Rutland's American No. 865.

Humorous though it may be now, I suppose it wasn't then. Another thing that struck me is that even though the engine was named Gen. J.G. McCullough, it is referred to as "her". Ships in those days were also referred to as "she". Can anyone suggest why that was, or maybe still is?

JAN 12, 2000

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

The new city report is out and a small comparison was in order, just to see how times have changed over the years in the duties of the fire department. Why was the fire department chosen, you ask? Because a member of the Historical Society is doing some research on past fires in Rutland and it just seemed to hit a note of interest.

In 1902 the Chief Engineer reported that the manual force had eight permanent and twenty call men. Their equipment consisted of one steam fire engine; one 65 foot aerial hook and ladder truck complete; two hose wagons, four horses and various lengths of cotton hose. The expenses for running the department included: Forage for horses; horse shoeing; veterinary service; fuel for stations and a new furnace for station No. 2. There was a request for two more horses for the aerial truck as the engineer felt this should be the first truck to arrive at a fire. At the time they had to send back for it and this wasted precious time. They were quite efficient in responding to fires.

Today, there are more than 25 full time and approximately 19 substitute/call firefighters. The equipment is totally up to date with computerized records so that all equipment, personnel and activities can be tracked. A new thermal imaging camera has been purchased that is only one of three in the state. This will enable the men to more quickly search and rescue and will make it safer for the firefighters.

The fire department now does more than fight fires. Their duties extend to any form of protection, service or instruction programs that will protect and preserve the lives of the citizens of Rutland. From the past to the present, Rutland can be proud of their firefighters.

The Rutland Historical Society is housed in the original Nickwackett Fire Station and one of the window shows where a horse had chewed on the wood frame. Did you ever wonder if, when the horses went charging out of the station, they might trip or lose a step--what would have happened?!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

At the present time there seems to be a rash of people coming down with the "flu", in spite of the shots that have been developed. Back in 1918 Rutland as well as the rest of the world was struck with an epidemic of the Spanish flu. September's 34 cases climbed to 710 in October and reduced to 77 and 78 cases respectively in November and December. But, in January of 1919 the cases again rose to 198 in Rutland City. By April of 1919 there were 10 cases reported--the epidemic appeared to be over. But, by February of 1920 it again reached epidemic proportions at 287 cases, subsiding to 15 in April. By 1922, there were only 2 cases of flu reported for the year. Today, in the year 2000, is the flu reaching epidemic proportions?

Does the weather have any affect on all this? According to the weather statistics of George H. Ross, Rutland's weather observer at that time, there were 18 days of rain listed in September of 1918 and 6 to 7 inches of rain for the month of October from 15 cloudy or rainy days. November and December had less precipitation with very little snow remaining on the ground. In January of 1919 there was 10 inches of snow with a minimal amount remaining on the ground and only 6 clear days for the month. In January of 1920 there was over a foot of snow, but it was very cold: 20 days of below zero weather led to a cold February First which had a high of minus ten degrees and a low of minus 26 degrees below zero. At that point as you can see, the flu was back.

An "old wives tale" indicates the less snow, the more illness. If so, be careful, stay healthy and guard against the "flu". The weather outside has been VERY unseasonal. [Frightful?]

[The Rutland Historical Society Library has daily weather report books kept by George H. Ross, George L. Kirk and Mrs. George L. (Dorothy) Kirk from August 1916 through September 1982]

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Do you really think the present winter weather is a big change from what it used to be? In 1951 the Rutland Chamber of Commerce's first winter carnival almost got wiped out by the weather.

According to an article in the Rutland Herald dated February 21, 1951 the Rutland Chamber of Commerce held Rutland's first Annual Winter Carnival. In view of the discouraging weather the carnival was a "reasonable success." Because the temperature hovered in the 40's the snow sculptures, ice fishing, a hockey game between UVM and Norwich and the local speed and novelty skating programs were washed out.

The event was salvaged by a snowfall--about a foot of it--at Pico Peak [only two inches in Rutland] which drew an overflowing parking lot of customers.

The Seventh Annual New Jersey State Slalom added a filler for the Carnival, with the race being won by the Watchung Amateur Ski Club of Elizabeth., NJ. Erling Omland of Roselle, NJ took first place.

Miss Frances Callahan was crowned queen of the Rutland Winter Carnival at the Ball that was held at the Meadowbrook Roller Skating Arena. Does anyone remember where this arena was located?

Mayor Dan Healy and Rutland Winter Carnival Queen Frances Callahan enjoy the "first dance" at the First Rutland Winter Carnival Ball.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY # 34

Tidbits From Then and Now

It is interesting to reflect on how, over the past 100 years, things that were developed early in the Century have changed in appearance so rapidly.

This picture of a 1903 Autocar shows one of the earliest cars to appear in Rutland. It was owned by John H. Frenier, who is shown preparing to take his family out for a ride.

Mr. Frenier loved to tinker with machinery and developed a sand pump that was used successfully in the marble quarries. He established a shop at the corner of Crescent Street and Cleveland Avenue where he manufactured these pumps. His fondness for things mechanical led him to purchase some of the first automobiles to be seen on the streets of Rutland.

When my mother, who was born in 1895, saw the first car in her town, she said it frightened her. She thought it was a carriage that had lost the horse.

In contrast, notice the development of the car of today, built not only for transportation, but comfort, beauty, ease of driving (automatic) and, of course, air conditioned.

Has driving become too comfortable? A car is a machine whose growing power is still controlled by drivers and by those who love to tinker with engines. Drive safely, the snow has finally arrived!

FEB 9, 2000

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

The snow has come and the skis are out. The ski resorts are echoing with glee.

Think of the progress of the ski. Some young men bent slats of wood and tied them to their feet. The progress wasn't the greatest, but it was the enjoyment of the accomplishment that paid off.

Sixty years ago found wooden skis, held on by a strap across your boot, [not a ski boot either]. Over the years they developed into an enameled wood to fiberglass to, who knows what! The ski boot developed along with it and is now attached with special bindings. The lightweight cross country ski made an appearance. Today the challenge is a specialty called snow boarding with a single, large, specially designed board. As far as I can see, [I'm not about to try it!] quite dangerous, but as usual a thrilling feat for the rider. Now, this week has introduced a new type of ski. It's called ski boarding with really short skis [at least both feet have a ski!] and seems to have really caught on.

Roller skates have done about the same thing, from rollers you hitched to your shoes to shoes with rollers. Then roller blades, so called because the rollers are in a row like a blade, to skate boards which both feet ride on and can be a competitive sport with all kinds of tricks mastered by the rider.

Ice skates also developed from hitching blades to your shoes to shoes with blades on them. Not much of a development you say? Try these: figure skates, hockey skates, double edge skates [for the little beginners]. So, the main development is in the style of the blade.

Remember trying to do a figure eight, skate backwards or even skate on one foot and act like a swan? The competitions now are breathtaking to behold.

How many remember the jack jumper?

Happy winter sports!

FEB 16, 2000

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

February is a month that is shortchanged as far as days go, so it seems to move along much faster than other months. Although it has less calendar days, it is host to many significant days: Groundhog Day--really mid-winter [no matter what he sees, there are still six weeks left until Spring]. Then come Lincoln's Birthday and Washington's Birthday [now combined into President's Day]. Of course, everyone sees red in the form of hearts through February, because of Valentine's Day.

Now the new Millenium jumps in with Leap Year [no pun intended]. According to Webster's Dirctionary, Leap Year is when February is given an additional day to make up for the time lost in the 365 and 1/4 day year--it occurs every four years.

I have three questions: 1. When and how did that particular day turn into a day when the woman could catch the man of her dreams? 2. Was it because of Valentine's Day? 3. Whose idea was it anyway?

These Valentine cards are from 1908 and 1910.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

A short time ago the Rutland Historical Society was given some autograph books that were retrieved from the dump. These fascinating books revealed several signatures by well known Rutland and Pittsford names of the 19th Century.

The penmanship is beautiful and many of the pages have flourishes done by the signers. A flourish was a way of practicing the strokes of the pen.

This beautiful "artwork" led me to wonder about the history of writing [since many of today's signatures are a mystery: two capital letters with a squiggle after each].

It all began with the Phoenicians having letters match the sounds in the spoken word. On to the Romans who used the Latin tongue (alphabet) that is still used today. In the Middle ages, writing was done with all capitals with no spacing or punctuation. The copying of books etc. brought about small letters with a capital only at the beginning of a sentence. Merchants could not take the time to write beautiful manuscript and began to tie the letters together. Thus began cursive writing. [How many remember the Palmer method we used to practice in school--round and round in "perfect curves," across the page.]

The youth of today never used the Palmer method, so I wondered what they used. One teacher offered that most teens print and maybe three out of twenty use cursive writing. A teacher in the middle grade level said the D'Nealian or Modern manuscript [printing and cursive combined] is being used to teach writing---GUESS WHAT!---that goes back to the post Middle ages when the printed letters were tied together! [MODERN??]

Back to the autograph books. They were found in the dump by some very observant people who knew their value. The Rutland Historical Society is always recommending that people think of them before throwing things away that might be considered an article or document that can bring the past to life for future generations.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Even with the snow on the ground you will find people running for exercise. Some have a headset or just an ear plug to accompany their running with music or even an encouraging message.

How did this type of access to music develop? Thanks is due to Thomas A. Edison, who invented a box with a horn (speaker) that played cylinder records. A look in a reprinted 1909 Sears, Roebuck & Co. catalogue shows "Graphophones that use standard size wax cylinder records".

Pictured is a phonograph made right here in Rutland in 1903 by Charles Hayles and Ernest Senecal, who produced a series of Vermont phonographs called Killington, Marble City, Pico, Otter and Dunmore at their store at 57 West Street. In 1913, Charles Hayles opened a store at 135 West Street where he sold the phonographs as well as Okeh, Lyric and Puritan records. [flat, round records called 78s]. In art class in the late 30s, I made a fancy dish for my parents by putting a record on a pie pan in the oven to slightly melt it. [apparently they were still made from wax]. Then pinched the edges [like you would a pie crust] and placed "lovely gems" around in it. Would you believe my record was Shirley Temple singing, "Animal Crackers in My Soup"?! If only I knew then what I know now!

Vinyl records came along and the "turntables" became more compact. They could play various sizes of records. After WWII, reel-to-reel tapes became popular. Later smaller 8-track and cassette tapes were developed. The older records have become collectors items and are great-- if you can find a phonograph or record player to play them.

Today rather than a phonograph, we have CDs and small cases that play cassette tapes while we exercise, work or otherwise go about our daily lives. All due to the magic of Thomas Edison's invention.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Where have all the whistles gone? I don't mean the kind that you hear from a train or from a referee to start or stop action. I'm thinking about the kind that people can produce themselves by blowing through their teeth and lips.

When someone was happily strolling along, he might whistle [never she--that was unladylike!]. By the way, whistling at a lady was, at one time, considered rude, but rather flattering. As time went on, whistling at a lady became rude and insulting. You knew when the postman was coming on his route [walking] as he merrily whistled on his way. Remember Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs? They used to whistle because they were happily busy: "Whistle While You Work".

During WWII some of the men in combat used to whistle to signal their buddies as to their whereabouts. If they were in a foreign town, they were careful not to whistle while walking around as they would immediately be identified as an American. My sister and her husband still use a particular whistle if they lose each other in a crowd or at a Mall.

Elmo Tanner was known as "The Whistler". He produced very popular records, whistling the tune instead of singing.

Happiness or feeling good seems to have been the basis for whistling. Are we too busy or preoccupied now to bother whistling or are we not as happy in the work we do. Do our children know how to whistle? They can learn to imitate and identify different bird calls, if they listen closely. Then they can have fun "whistling like a bird".

Let's be happy--"give a little whistle"!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Mud season is fast approaching, if it isn't already here. In recent years, if you had a family, mud season brought out the best in the kids finding a good puddle of mud to track into the home. There were little entry rooms called mud rooms where outerwear could be deposited to dry out and brushed off before the next outdoor venture.

Roads became rutted with tire tracks from carriage wheels as well as from the newer type of transportation---CARS! Cars needed to be pulled out of many mud problems as can be seen in this typical scene. [By the way, guess what usually pulled the cars out---horses!] Paved streets were a thing of the future. Imagine trying to cross the intersection of West Street and Merchants Row. No storm drains to catch the runoff coming down the hill. No wonder Sir Walter Raleigh became famous for laying his cloak [which men wore in those times] across a mud puddle so that a "fair lady" could cross without getting her feet and dress hem muddy. On the North side of Washington Street near Wales Street, there is a "stepping stone" that protected people from the mud as they stepped from the their carriage.

Now the majority of streets and roads are paved, unless you venture onto the roads of outlying "country living" homes or wilderness roads, which, for the most part, are "hardpacked", but can still get muddy tracks in the dips and curves and catch a driver unaware.

Today, we deal with another problem. How often do we see the warning signs: "Bumps", "Frost Heaves". Sometimes there may not be any warning as these have been known to appear overnight. Maybe these are really old "mud ruts" trying to get free of the covering pavement!!

Drive carefully and watch for the end of winter bumps and dips. Horses are now represented by tow trucks and we well know the price we have to pay for getting stuck in the mud today.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT---1926

Rutland has a long established record as an industrial city with a diversity of industries located within and surrounding the city. Its products are shipped to markets all over the world. The Chamber of Commerce is a live organization and is prepared to assist new industries or branches of already established industries, to obtain new locations in this city. There are valuable industrial sites available with provision for expansion and railroad facilities.

Rutland is a modern city, geographically located for industries desiring to ship products or obtain raw materials from points on the Atlantic seaboard or from the West. It offers fine opportunities for industries now located in large metropolitan centers on account of its room for expansion, supply of American labor to be drawn from rural districts surrounding Rutland, freedom from labor troubles and opportunities for taking care of any housing problem that may arise.

INDUSTRIAL RUTLAND---1940

As an Industrial Center, Rutland is in the pioneer class. Long before modern transportation came, Rutland had its industrial structure founded. For many years the destinies of the industries here were guided by local men, and the present plants are the result of the energies of Rutland men.

Rutland--The first city in Vermont industrially, manufactures products valued at nearly \$10,000,000 annually. There are 37 principal industries employing 1,900 and paying wages of over \$2,000,000 annually. Available industrial sites are plentiful, and located on trunk line railroads.

RUTLAND CITY REPORT---1999

Rutland is faced with the dilemma of how to best handle the truck traffic that is essential to our economic well-being, and must set its sights on improving the infrastructure leading to the Rutland Region as our economic base is threatened by an antiquated and unsafe highway system.

Positive steps have begun by working with other communities, regional organizations and trade shows to bring attention to the needs of Southwest/Central Vermont to ensure that jobs will be here for not only us, but for our children. Rutland is committed to the concept that the standard of living and quality of life of the region's citizens can best be served by a vibrant, healthy economy, sensitive to the environment and preservation of our cultural heritage.

One has to wonder how progressive these modern times have been for Rutland, as compared to Rutland as a major industrial site back in the 1920's and 1940's. But,

compared to a lot of cities today, don't you just love Rutland?!!

Don't miss "Historically Speaking" on Channel 15. Carole Curry presents "The Restoration of Antique Wedding Gowns" This program runs through the month of March.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

When one complained about having to walk to and from school from home or from the bus when the weather was bad, a typical parental response was, "I had to walk miles every day to get to school and home again". It is also recorded that many young people were boarded in local homes during the school week, if they came from surrounding towns to attend Rutland High School.

Many youngsters left school in their early teens to work on farms or other labors to help support their families. Sometimes it depended on the season (e.g. harvest time) as to when the child attended school. I'm not sure if this was considered truancy, or what age was mandatory for attending school during this period of time.

What did school and city officials think of truancy? An excerpt from the Second Annual City Report of Rutland in 1894 tells the following:

Truancy has received close attention on the part of the truant officer and teachers, and as a result of their united action there has been an increased attendance in our schools. The home environment of many children is such that they have no encouragement to be anything else than street gamins [urchins], and their influence over others often leads others astray. Severity in dealing with truancy is the greatest possible favor to the offenders as it also gets rid of the class that are determined to become criminals, who are sent to the school of industry [during the year there were 340 truancies, of those 6 were sent to reform school].

Excerpt from the City Report of 1999: The work of schools and educators has changed dramatically over the past few years. Our culture is radically different from that of years gone by. The impact of the media, safe havens for children [homes, extended families, or neighborhoods] are no longer available to many. Well beyond the traditional academic mission of schools, there are opportunities for young people to be nurtured through a myriad of programs.

"Reform Schools" do not exist any more. Programs have been developed to help those whose behavior is not appropriate for the traditional class setting and there are all kinds of programs to help solve "living problems". Parents are responsible to see that their child is not truant. There is still a truant officer available, but one can only imagine how different the job is today.

Families may be interested to know that currently the Pueblo Indian portion of the Ella Bean Livingston Native American Collection is on display at the Society at 96 Center Street. This includes pottery, baskets and photos from Arizona in 1918-1921. The Society is open Mondays from 6-9 PM and Saturdays from 1-4 PM. There is no admission fee.

[Viewing this exhibit may not be used as an excuse for truancy!!]

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Remember scooting home from school to be able to listen to your favorite programs on the radio? What a selection: Lorenzo Jones; Captain Midnight; Jack Armstrong [The All American Boy, who ate his Wheaties!]; Ma Perkins [one of the teen girls favorites]; Little Orphan Annie [our hero, Daddy Warbucks!]; Terry and the Pirates [which I was banned from listening to after I dove behind the dining room table to avoid an explosive that was being thrown by the enemy pirate] and of course, Dick Tracy. All of these were 15 minute programs Monday through Friday.

Then after supper, the weekly favorites of: The Green Hornet; The Shadow; The Whistler and the Lone Ranger (among others) for a full half-hour. How we loved them and used our imaginations to join them in their escapades.

What about the prizes you could get--which are now considered collectibles: A ring that would decode messages; a dog whistle and a walking meter; all kinds of great treasures when you collected the box tops and then became as well equipped as your hero.

Today with TV and computer games, the imagination is not challenged to picture an event. The programs can be totally absorbed through watching or by controlling what happens in the games by a click of the finger, so one can become the hero of the game if quick enough. What are the popular TV shows today? What is involved in the popular computer games?

One can only wonder what the fertile minds of youth can concoct when they no longer have to use their imagination to read or hear a story. Just turn on the TV or play a computer game and thinking is done for them.

Can we expect youngsters to still fashion an idea and reason out the best way to do something when all along the reasoning has been done for them by all these visual impressions? I guess, once again, progress is all in how it is used.

TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR: Tuesday, 7 PM, April 18th, Fox Room at the Library. Don Wickman will present a program titled: A Time Most Forgotten: Mount Independence During the American Revolution, 1776-1777.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

It's really fun to browse through old papers and pamphlets to see how people went about their daily activities. There was a booklet published during the Christmas season of 1893 by the Young Men's Catholic Union and it is filled with the names of prominent people in Rutland as well as advertisements from many local businesses. One section entitled, "In Lighter Vein" consisted of "tongue in cheek" materials that were quite amusing and this one I thought should be shared:

"New Rules at the Post-Office

Eggs must be sent when new.

Feather-beds are not mailable.

Ink bottles must be corked when sent by mail.

A stamp of the foot is not sufficient to carry a letter.

Over three pounds of real estate are not mailable.

It is unsafe to mail apple or fruit-trees with the fruit on them, as some of the clerks have a weakness for such things.

Nitro-glycerine must be forwarded at risk of sender. If it should blow up in the hands of the postmaster he will not be held responsible.

When letters are received bearing no directions, the parties for whom they are intended will please notify the postmaster in order that he may at once forward.

Spring chickens that are old enough to eat when sent by mail should be enclosed in iron-bound boxes to save their tender bodies from injury.

Parties are earnestly requested not to send postal cards with money orders enclosed, as large sums are frequently lost in this way.

Parties who desire to send baled hay safely through the mails are notified to lick their own postage stamps and envelopes, the postmaster can not be compelled to do this."

Even worse is the LAW, stated in another old newspaper: You shall give the fire department 24 hour advance notice in case of a fire. Or another LAW: Roosters should be three feet from a person before they crow. And we all thought life was simple back then!!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

A few years ago I was given some small diaries of a local person. They date from 1916 through 1932. They give a glimpse about everyday living through those years. I have yet to thoroughly read through these books, but have occasionally glanced through to find something that might be of interest in local doings.

An interesting note from Sunday, April 9, 1916: "Snowed all day. About 7 inches. Went to the Colburn barn to see hay. Went to Addies and stayed overnight" [NOTE: Sunday, April 9, 2000: Snowed all day--7 inches accumulated in Rutland! Who says the weather is changing!?!]

Tuesday, February 29, 1916: "8 degrees. Cold but pleasant. Bought 1 ton of Chestnut coal, \$7.50, 1 ton egg coal, \$7.25." [How about those prices? Does anyone use coal any longer?]

Monday, March 13, 1916: "28 degrees. Very still this morning and snowing quite fast. Rheumatism has a hold on me now."

Sunday, March 26, 1916: "16 degrees. A fine day. Here in the city the snow melts fast. I drove over the Dorr bridge on the Creek Road to Clarendon South Flats and home by the Haynes farm."

Thursday, April 13, 1916. "Cloudy all through the day. Very still. Went to Clarendon for hay. Sap is running good today."

Tuesday, April 25, 1916. "46 degrees. Partly cloudy not much of any wind. Sprayed part of the fruit trees and fixed the bed for the gladiolias [gladiolas]. Sowed some lettuce."

Monday, May 1, 1916. "62 degrees. A fine day. Set out the dahlias and the gladiolias [gladiolas]."

Thursday, May 4, 1916. "Fine day. In the forenoon went to the auction of the building lots of Dr. Crain [Dr. M. Richards Crain was deceased] on Crescent Street. 1 sold for \$225 [\$255 according to the newspaper] 1 for \$275 and the 13 acres on Harrington Ave. \$2,000."

[According to the Rutland Herald dated May 5, 1916 the lots on Crescent Street were numbers 24 and 26 Crescent. These were purchased by Horace Colburn. Another "small world" development--we lived at 24 1/2 Crescent Street when we first came to Rutland in 1960! The 13 acres on Harrington Avenue were on the southwest corner of Harrington and Stratton Road. This was purchased by John Gill, Manager of the Waldorf Bakery on Strongs Avenue. There was also an auction of 65 acres of property owned by Dr. Crain, on the south side of Park Street which contained a large barn and had been part of the Baker farm. This was purchased by James E. Creed of East Street for \$4,700.]

Tuesday October 12, 1916. "30 degrees. A fine day. Cold not any better. Ordered 2 boxes of cheese sent to F. P. Sheldon. Mary went downtown and got shoes for Doris, \$4.00, shoes for Mildred, \$2.50 and for herself, \$5.00."

Seems like nothing really changes in our everyday lives [except for prices, of course]. Oh yes, income taxes were also paid, that all began in 1913!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

With the coming of spring, students start looking forward to the ending of the school year within a few weeks. However, alumni start planning to reunite and discover where life has taken their peers.

In 1901 an "Old Home Week" was planned from August 11 through August 17. Why select this particular get-together? While reading the booklet that was published for the event [which contained many wonderful pictures of the area], some interesting events took place that would be equivalent to news in today's newspapers.

It was noted in the booklet that the scheduled events contained no imported attractions and the purpose was to emphasize the every-day life of the community. Each religious body was asked to make special notice of the observance of Old Home Week in their own manner from the pulpit. [They also planned some daily entertainment for the visiting people who belonged to their particular religious body].

Registration on the first night consisted of over 300 names. [The paper included all the names of those registered each time a registration was listed.]

On Wednesday, August 14th the open air concert by the Rutland City Band was cancelled because of rain. The evening found a reception at the Grand Army Hall for all former graduates or scholars of the High School.

Thursday there was a concert by the Choral Association [consisting of 100 voices] and the Rutland Festival Orchestra. City residents paid 30 cents to attend. [West Rutland residents were charged 35 cents!] It was estimated that over 1400 people attended. The first public rendering of the song "My Old Green Mountain Home" was done by F. C. Lyon. [Rutland Herald of April 21, 2000 reads that the song "These Green Mountains" written and performed by Diane Martin was given preliminary approval by the Legislature as the new state song].

Friday August 16, 1901 was devoted to the opening of the beautiful grounds of the Rutland Country Club, which was formerly the Baxter farm, at the northwest part of the city and at the foot of Pine Hill, on the banks of East Creek. It was expected that the new golf course would be in readiness. [According to the August 22, 1901, Rutland Herald, it was ready and during the week people attending Old Home Week used the new golf course. The evening of August 16, the large barn on the premises was opened, and facilities afforded for an old-fashioned country dance therein.

Old Home Week closed on Saturday, but many who visited the city remained over Sunday.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

For the older generation of Rutland it is a trip back in time; for the younger generation it is to know what was then.

Pine Hill was where many people from the western section of the city fled from the flood of 1947. Why? Because it was the highest hill in the area. Pine Hill was also a location for family recreation when Rocky Pond Recreational Area was developed in 1954. The center of development was an eight-acre pond surrounded by a wooded area owned by the Rutland Country Club, but located within Rutland City limits. Access to the pond was through city-owned Pine Hill Park in the northwest section of Rutland. Rutland City property extends to within 100 yards of Rocky Pond and in 1953 the Rutland County Club gave the Chamber of Commerce a 10-year lease on Rocky Pond and surrounding lands for use as a recreational area.

Combining natural beauty with accessibility, the Rocky Pond area has always been accessible to Rutland's population. . It is located within a forested area in Rutland City. A one-mile gravel road connects the northern end of Evergreen Avenue with Rocky Pond, wending its way through the 275-acre Pine Hill Park.

Through the cooperation of many of Rutland's service clubs, businesses and individual contributors and much volunteer labor, the recreation area opened to the public in 1954. It included a spacious parking lot, wooded picnic area, picnic tables and fireplaces, two bathhouses, a concession stand, toilet facilities, sandy beach, manned lifeguard tower and a float. Many Rutland residents will probably remember going there in the good weather. Capacity crowds were noted on the few warm weekends of the season but there is no record of continued operation after 1957. In addition to inclement weather, reduced patronage and operating losses, there had been extensive vandalism during the winter and spring off-months.

Today there is probably no evidence to show that this wonderful recreation area existed. But, there is still a beautiful Pine Hill Park area where even today people from all over the city find relaxation while just viewing their city from the top of the hill; hiking through the woods; bicycling on the old washed out road. On occasion the adventurer can come across deer [these are sure finds], and possibly a moose [known to have been seen]. If you view one of the ponds [I'm not telling which one] you can see some ducks with their nests. Hikers like to bring along rubbish bags to clean up along the way. As with any hiking area, litter seems to find a home.

It is unusual to find such a beautiful natural area located in a city. If you live next to it you can literally say [as many of my out of state relatives have stated] "It's like living in the city but being in the country".

On a sunny day, take the family for a hike, or "escape" by yourself! You'll love it!

Today, approximately 100 years later, when a reunion is planned it seems that two days are the limit. I don't think anyone would even dream of trying to plan a full week of activities for all former residents of Rutland. Individual school classes are hard enough to pull together. Just remember, when you receive notice of your class reunion, think of all the work that goes into it and try to make plans to "come home".

PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR: Tuesday, May 9, 2000 "Friends of Freedom: Vermont's Underground Railroad"--Ray Zirblis. Fox Room, Rutland Free Library, 7:00 PM.

5/18
MAY 17, 2000

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Remember parents/grandparents talking about the silent movies? Do young people even know about them? My mother used to tell about her Saturday afternoons when she could go to three different movies. She would pay a nickel for each movie and run from the first one to the next and then to the next. [Obviously the movies then were very short]. You could actually see the same movie over and over if you stayed in the same place. [Many did just that and really got their nickel's worth!] There was a piano player that kept up with the tempo of the actions on the screen and the actor's/actress' words were on the screen. [Remember, these were "silent movies".]

Advertised in the Rutland Herald on May 18, 1920 were some very interesting movies and the prices paid to see them.

Playhouse Theater: Eugene O'Brien in George Barr McCutcheon's "A Fool and His Money". Daytime cost was 11 cents; Evening was 17 - 25 cents. [I suppose it mattered where you sat]. On May 19, Viola Dana in "Some Bride". Then, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Direct from Keith Theater, New York City. Les Morecheanties and Company in Vocal and Instrumental Selections--A fine production-special scenes and electric effects. Same prices in effect.

Grand Theater: Corenne Griffith in "Deadline at Eleven." A girl found happiness and adventure in work. Filmed in a New York daily newspaper office. Matinee 5-15 cents; Evening 10-15 cents. Thursday, The Pinnacle of Perfection in Motion Pictures: "The Gamblers"--from the famous play by Charles Klein--deals with love and jealousy, high finance and political ambition.

Strand Theater: Carl Laemmle offers Locklear--The daredevil of the skies in "The Great Air Robbery"--climb with Locklear from plane to plane, the earth a mile below...It's a Universal Picture--staged in the clouds. Thursday: SPECIAL MATINEE, after school for all children. Admission 11 cents. Jesse L. Lasky presents a new Mark Twain Paramount Arctcraft picture: "Huckleberry Finn". All you ever loved, or "cussed," in a boy!--The tale that will live as long as the world can smile, and men remember youth.

Gone by the wayside are the short comedy acts, news shorts and other added "attractions". These movies were "silent" and dated May 18, 1920. [Long before my time, I assure you! Remember, it was my mother that told me about them!]

On August 27, 1913, the Rutland Herald ran an article about talking pictures: Edison Talking Pictures. A crew of Thomas A. Edison's mechanics will take possession of the Rutland Opera House and for six hours will busily install the intricate and highly sensitized synchronizing equipment of the Kinetophone, his latest and greatest invention. [This was a process of synchronizing recorded sound with the action. Did it work? It is known that "talking movies" with the sound track on the film, did not become the norm until the late 1920's]

Today, we have Multiplex theaters which show extraordinary electronic productions. These films are many times longer, much more real-to-life and much more expensive to attend. However, movies whether silent or talking, have always been a great entertainment for all generations.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

May 18, 1920: "Rutland's Rubbish Nearly Collected. It is expected that the work of cleaning the streets of the city of rubbish, which was commenced by the street department May 10 under the direction of Commissioner of Public Works, Donald D. Snyder, will be completed tonight. A gang of about 20 workmen, a large automobile truck and some wagons have been employed in the work, and it is believed that more rubbish was accumulated this year by residents of the different parts of the city than on former occasions. Rubbish from the northern and eastern part of the city was deposited in the old quarry owned by the city on North Main street, while the rubbish from the western and southern portion was left at the city dumping grounds on River street."

Remember when we rushed around gathering disposable items to put by the side of the road because the city would send trucks around to collect and dispose of the "junk"? As the old saying goes, "One man's junk is another man's treasure". Remember the strangers coming along the city streets in cars or trucks and inspecting each pile for a "hidden treasure"? Some were neat about it, but others left a mess [Heaven forbid that the city workers would think you put it out there like that!] Many times someone had to go out and neatly pile it back together.

My oldest son, at the age of about 12, came home from a friend's house with an old treadle sewing machine. He couldn't believe that this beautiful treasure was being thrown away. Needless to say, his "treasure" is still with him these 30 years later.

Today, we're on our own to dispose of our "extras" ---What happened? An article in the same 5/18/20 paper indicated that the collection process in Proctor, was apparently being used by too many people, coming from other towns to bring their junk to friends where it would be collected. Thus, making much more rubbish deposited in front of some homes than could possibly be collected by just one household.

It has probably become too expensive for the city to perform this work now, but many people miss it for practical reasons and some just for the entertainment of seeing "treasures" retrieved from their "junk"! Anyway, Happy Spring cleanup!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

With the summer season fast approaching, it would be nice to see some of the "rules" carried out while walking around the city. Imagine how impressed visitors to the city would be. What am I talking about? The following rules were found among advertisements in an 1893 publication:

Behavior on the Street

1. Keep the right of the walk.
2. Never elbow or push.
3. Be careful in carrying a cane or umbrella.
4. Don't stare at those passing.
5. Don't point at people.
6. Never use tobacco where it may be offensive; the safest and best way is not to use it at all.
7. Always restore a dropped article to a lady or anyone older than yourself.
8. Raise your hat in greeting a lady or a gentlemen accompanied by a lady.
9. Wear your hat straight upon your head.
10. Never precede a lady, except in making way for her through a crowd or in ascending stairs.

Many of these rules could be used today. Particularly numbers 1-7. What was a surprise was number 6! The rest of them have of course changed over time. Most people don't wear hats anymore. Teens wear caps, which seem to never be removed under any circumstances!! Women (ladies) today are more independent and can actually take care of themselves. [Remember the date of this article--dresses were very long and full and apparently ladies were much more delicate.]

With the summer months coming maybe the rollerbladers; skateboarders; bikers and joggers should take great care in coping with summer traffic, which has also grown in leaps and bounds since 1893 thanks to the initiative of Henry Ford.

Enjoy the summer months and try to be on your best behavior on the street!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

MAY 18, 1920 article from the *Rutland Herald*:

Physical Training in Schools Investigated

Montpelier: May 17--Dr. M. Hillegas, Commissioner of Education, will go to Louisville, KY, this week with other members of a commission designated by the government to investigate the matter of physical training in schools; to ascertain whether the present regulation shall be changed or Federal aid stopped. This physical training is provided in schools where there are 100 boys. It is not military training, but has to do with discipline and a general trend to make a better man of the youth.

Apparently only the boys were the concern of physical training during this period of time. The result of the meeting is unknown, although it is a known fact that Physical Education has been present in the schools on a regular basis over the years. At one time it was even mandatory for graduation. The only way to get out of it was with a doctor's recommendation.

I can remember having a yearly "GYM MEET" when all the parents would come to see each class perform their particular "learned skill". In 1st grade it was a relay race to pin clothes on a clothesline in a certain length of time. In the 6th grade you got to perform on the rings (these hung from the ceiling and you could do a somersault or just lift your legs and swing and jump to the mat. Each class had a certain "uniform" to wear. I distinctly remember my 1st grade uniform which was homemade of a blue checked material (of course it was a dress!!) Although when it came time for dress rehearsal, my dress was nowhere to be found. Mother had to remake the dress. Not long after that it was found, but not in the form of a dress. Grandma was a quilter and the material was just what she had been looking for!!

In the early 60's President Kennedy was very active in promoting physical education. When my children were in school---through the 70's---Phys Ed was required to graduate. Today I'm not sure if it is mandatory, but I have always felt that a non-passing grade in physical education should not have a bearing on a student's mental ability.

Today we have more students sitting at a computer, learning more about everything and anything. They sit in front of a television set watching educational and non-educational programs or films. They have snacks to enjoy while doing all this sitting. Now both boys and girls can get involved in sports although these are not part of the physical education program. They are independent activities and some students are not interested. Society says that the American children are getting "heavier". Is it lack of physical education or too many "goodies"? But, think of the possibilities they have with all the physical activities available to them. (eg. Did you know anything about Tai Kwan Do when you were young?)

Personally I feel that today's children learn so much more and are capable of learning so much more than we were able to, just a generation or two ago. Physical education can relax the mind while keeping the body "healthy while you learn".

Everyone, be you young or old, enjoy sitting and being entertained or learning, but don't sit too long!!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland at one time was known as a major railroad city. Rutland citizens love the railroad. Why? Either they worked for the railroad or their fathers/grandfathers had some connection to the railroad. How many remember a stockyard in the Rutland Railroad yard where animals arrived and departed in stock cars?

It's just wonderful to inquire of any adult over 60 about his or her experience as a child living within the area of the stockyard. Would you believe cows, horses, pigs or sheep being herded down South Street directly into the stockyard every Sunday morning? Is it possible that the love of horses by many Rutland residents came from this experience as a youth?

I tried to find who might have been doing all this shipping of livestock. The only one I found who dealt with cattle, horses, sheep and pigs was Abraham Newman.

Many wonderful stories can surface about the thrill of watching the animals pass by. Some of the animals would even look directly at the viewers. Boys rode bikes [if they could find one--not many had bikes during the "depression" years] just to see the animals. Most of the boys had a special admiration for the horses that carried through their lives.

This type of "entertainment" apparently continued through the mid-40's and as one person put it: "We really enjoyed seeing the cattle etc. until we got older and realized where they were going".

Today the train station is new. The location of the stockyard is an empty lot on Post Street. The cattle trains have stopped. Passenger trains have been renewed by the arrival of Amtrak. Freight trains, on a much more limited basis, still pass through. Many tracks have been removed or overgrown where they exited the trainyards--the roundhouse and old station are gone and in their place there is a shopping center.

But, speak to an older Rutlander and you'll find the Rutland Railroad is very much alive in many hearts and memories. Try it, it's wonderful to hear.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

June has been traditionally known as the month of weddings. Why do you suppose that is? Some feel that in ages past the month of June brought about new beginnings. Trees put forth their buds, flowers bloomed and traveling was much better for horses. [At least in New England!]. There was also a new beginning for the couple, whether pre-arranged by families or brought about by "boy meets girl".

Other traditions came along with weddings. The bride had something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue--[at some point a penny in the shoe was added to signify wealth]. The bride's family had a dowry to offer, whether financial or in the form of household furnishings. There were many gifts given to the couple to furnish their home. For the most part there was not what is now considered a "honeymoon" trip. The bride was usually moved from her home to her new home with her husband.

Some of the wedding write-ups in the old newspapers are wonderful to read. They describe the bride's personality and the groom's popularity, the list of guests coming from out of town and usually a full description of the bride's dress. They even mention some of the "lovely and practical" gifts received by the couple.

One article indicated that wedding rings were worn on the right hand for many years. It is not known when the change to the left hand took place, but, all accounts seem to indicate that the ring was changed to the left hand so that it was nearer the heart. [How romantic!!]

Today weddings are held at any time of the year. Holidays, Fall, the beginning of a new year have all joined the month of June as a popular time to get married. Showers for the bride; Jack & Jill showers for the couple; stag parties for the groom and pre-wedding dinners are all part of a standard wedding. Honeymoon trips are planned to far-off places. The arrangements are done by the couple and do not necessarily have to bow to tradition.

This interesting article in a May 1920 Rutland Herald is what started me on the subject:

Amber Beads Long Popular

The superstition which clings to the meaning of beads is of ancient origin. The custom of wearing an amber necklace was immensely common, and is not yet extinct among old women in England. The amber, when heated sends forth an agreeable perfume. In olden times it was the present made by a mother to her daughter on her wedding eve.

The beads which were "long popular" in the 1920's are again in great demand especially by the younger generation. Amber is still popular, but each color has a

significance: rose = love; turquoise = health; amethyst = intelligence; tiger's eye [or amber] = courage. [Cat's eye marbles were always lucky]. Beaded bracelets are worn and apparently the significance of the color expresses the feelings of the wearer, not just something to match an outfit.

It is interesting to note that mothers gave their daughters amber beads on the eve of their wedding. Was this to give them courage to face a new life? Do you think it might help the younger generation if mothers revived this "tradition"?

The summer series of Friday night "Big Band" dances start on June 23rd from 7-9PM at the Godnick Center. Come young and old to dance or listen--visit with friends--there's free admission!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

July Fourth celebrates the adoption in July 1776 of the Declaration of Independence which declared our separation from Great Britain. At the time of the adoption of the Declaration, John Adams wrote a letter to his wife which read like a prophesy: "I am apt to believe that it (the day) will be celebrated by succeeding generations as a great anniversary festival. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, balls, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to another, from this time forward for ever more."

For over two hundred years, the nation has celebrated this glorious event with parades, fireworks, special events and picnics, just as John Adams predicted. Many wars have been endured and many men/women have sacrificed their lives to keep this independence and freedom.

As many celebrations have become commercial throughout the progression of time, so has the Fourth of July. Has it become just a day off from work to be celebrated for only personal reasons? A time for taking a vacation, or going to a summer resort to celebrate personal relaxation?

Hopefully, the purpose for the celebration of the Fourth of July will always be to remember the Freedom, Liberty and Justice for a whole nation given to us by the Declaration of Independence.

Have a Happy, Safe and THANKFUL Fourth of July!

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Why is the US often called Uncle Sam

The use of the name Uncle Sam for the United States has been common for more than 100 years. No one knows for certain how it began, but there is an explanation that appeared in print about 1840, and may be true. The story goes that a contractor named Elbert Anderson was furnishing some supplies for the United States Army during the War of 1812. On the barrels and boxes were stamped his initials, E.A., and U.S. for the United States. Someone asked what those letters meant and a wag, for a joke, answered that he supposed they meant "Elbert Anderson and Uncle Sam", meaning Samuel Wilson, an old gentleman who was the local inspector of Army supplies. Whether this is how the use began, no one really knows, but it soon spread over the country. After a while Uncle Sam was pictured as a tall, slender old gentleman dressed in old-fashioned clothes with a white or gray tall hat. Sometimes the clothes of Uncle Sam are made of American flags. [This is how most people remember Uncle Sam's clothes]. Now this figure is recognized everywhere in the world as representing the United States, and has been very helpful to cartoonists.

During World Wars I and II, Uncle Sam represented the services who needed good men to defend freedom. Most people will remember a very somber Uncle Sam pointing directly from the poster that said, "I WANT YOU!"

The flag is a high and holy symbol. It teaches us to remember the might and majesty and the honor of the nation; it's loyalty to justice and truth and the purity of its great ideals.

State or national flowers remind us of our home or country. The United States has adopted the Rose as a national flower (according to a national Web site). All the states in the Union have adopted a specific flower--Vermont's is a Red Clover.

Just some interesting tidbits for the patriotic month of July, taken from the Book of Knowledge. Enjoy the month and help develop a true spirit of love and patriotism for a country that was "born to be free".

Tidbits From Then and Now

Excerpts from a letter to the editor published in the Rutland Herald on September 24, 1930

There is no question about the necessity of gas filling stations for the motoring public, and the more conveniently they can be reached, the better motorists like it. Any gas pump located where a car has to go some distance from the road will not be patronized nearly as much as the ones where the car can just get well out of traffic, get gas quickly, and be on its way. Neither a gas pump nor any other industry can long serve the public unless it can be made to pay the cost of service. This is the reason why gas stations that succeed are located where traffic is heavy.

Routes U.S. 4 and U.S. 7 double between Woodstock Avenue and West Street, and as traffic on each is getting larger all the time, the wise gas man locates in this block. True, U.S. 4 could be changed northerly from Woodstock Avenue to Kendall, down by the new High School which some of us are proud of, and so into State Street without passing through the dense traffic of Merchants Row. But as now established, the greatest motor traffic of the city is undoubtedly on this block where these two streams double.

No one loves the beauty and utility of trees more than I. The magnificent elms that were sacrificed ... were things of beauty, but some of them had been beautiful too long to be safe, and they certainly did shade the residence too heavily, and though I greatly regretted their loss, I did not own them, nor could I fairly say they should not be cut, regardless of reason. We must let all this beauty go when it becomes a menace to life or property.

I have achieved some little local reputation by opposing several measures that I did not believe were for the best interests of the city and usually my side has won. If a zoning act passes the next legislature that permits the honorable mayor, the president of the board of aldermen, or any other individual or group of individuals, to say what use I shall make of my own property that I have bought and paid for, so long as such use is legal, I shall again enter a fight against its adoption in this city as long as I live here.

--W.L. Archer, 9 North Main Street, Rutland, September 22, 1930

Seventy years later with thousands of automobiles and trucks of various sizes, there is still discussion of traffic flow at the intersections noted in the condensed version of the letter. Zoning and planning are still debated issues. The "fight" to keep the beauty of nature undisturbed by man-made-vehicles (progress?) still rages. The right of anyone except the owner to mastermind the use of personal property is very much in the headlines. As for the gas stations!! Paying the "cost of service" is a "Really Big" issue right now.

Do times really change as much as they seem to? In this month of celebrating independence, the letter just seemed to hit the spot for the people of Rutland [A voice from Rutland's past].

Tommy Dorsey and Les Brown are the featured bands for Friday night July 14th at the Godnick Center. Bring your partner, friend and neighbor and enjoy great music, and cold drinks--all free!

#57
11/20/00

Tidbits From Then and Now

Article from the 6/12/30 Rutland Herald:

Runaway Horse In Auto-filled Streets Thrills Onlookers.

Persons in the Business District yesterday were treated to an unusual sight in this age of the gasoline engine when a runaway horse dashed through traffic and finally overturned a buggy at the watering trough at Evelyn Street and Merchants Row.

The animal and the carriage belonged to a blacksmith of Woodstock Avenue. The vehicle was unoccupied when the horse started its wild run on West Street. After dodging through a maze of motor cars, the frightened animal turned into Evelyn Street. The carriage was thrown against the fountain, breaking shafts. Freed from the encumbrances, the horse with harness dangling ran up Center Street, only to gallop into the arms of the law, Officer Patrick H. Conlin, who chanced to be patrolling in the vicinity, rushed into the street and stopped the horse.

Excerpt from 9/24/30 Rutland Herald (from Columbia, S.C. Record):

Vermont Bridle Paths

Who would ever think of finding horseback riding developed to an art in Vermont or of three beautifully illustrated pages in a present Highway Magazine given to accounts of roads that were not paved but were given over to bridle paths. Think of the Green Mountain Horse Association mapping out 750 miles of bridle paths in Vermont.....inspired by the fact that the Federal government selected Vermont in which to hold its 300-mile army endurance tests.

"The Bridle Paths which the Association have marked are not laid out as are the Bridle Paths around cities, but are the back country roads going up over the hills and down through the valleys connecting the villages and towns of Vermont. To describe the beauty of these roads is absolutely impossible. Beyond each curve a new picture opens before your eyes. Here a dirt road winds between green trees, and there past another corner are more beautiful trees with the black opening of a covered bridge. Almost everywhere a brook, winding along the woods, you meet it later as the road twists through the hill."

Nobody around here [Columbia] rides now but former Governor Manning and Irving Belser, and doubtless they will be leaving soon for Vermont or some other place where the automobile does not push horseback riders off the road.

Notice the three month difference in the articles! Where are the horses ridden today? We hop in a car and go to see a horse race. People carry the horses in trailers to enter events with their horses. Remember when the ice man came with his horse and wagon? The "rag man" appeared each week to collect rags with his horse and wagon? And so many other services. Don't forget

that the horse pulled fire equipment for many years. Do young people go on "hay rides" anymore? [Not the kind that goes around the block, but the kind that carried a full load of couples, with real hay, and a very prominent chaperone]. Boy, what fun that used to be!

One can only imagine the trauma for both horse and driver during the transition from horse to auto; from steering with reigns to steering with a wheel. [Ever try to say "whoa" to your auto?]

There are still a great many horses around on farms in Vermont. Beautiful to behold [only to behold as far as I'm concerned. I rode one once and would just as soon not do so again!] But, it is a wonderful memory of the world of transportation before the automobile.

Life and horses moved much more slowly than the cars and lives of today----have we lost something by such rapid progress?

Tidbits From Then and Now

Collecting coins is one of the oldest known hobbies. How does one go about starting a coin collection? The answer usually depends upon the interest and what brought about that interest. In the 60's the "Kennedy" half-dollar was to be treasured mainly because he was a beloved president whose life was abruptly ended. Then came the "Susan B. Anthony" dollar, which became more collectable because of its failure. It was too much like a quarter even though it had beveled edges. [A friend of mine recently found one such dollar in place of a quarter in her change from a grocery store]. Today we have another new dollar which has a golden color and grooved edges so that it can be easily identified, even by a blind person. New quarters are also in circulation. They will pay tribute to individual states as they produced over a 10-year period. Vermont's will be released in 2001. There are many folders available for collecting these quarters. [They also fit nicely into a discarded film holder]. Old coins, if not disfigured or in the hands of collectors, remain in circulation.

Paper currency came into use in the early 1860's and has also seen some changes over the years. Large-size paper currency was issued from 1861-1929 when the present small-size currency came into use. People were requested to redeem the old currency and many turned it in at the bank. Many wise persons did not redeem the old currency and today some can be found in a collector's possession.

Excerpts from an article that appeared in the Rutland Herald dated July 13, 1930:

Old Currency's Doom Is Blaze In Washington

A steady glow, from the capital's city dump grounds, day and night, marks the passing of billions of dollars. For months a funeral pyre of the large-sized bills of the old currency has been blazing. It is estimated that most of the old paper money now has literally "gone up in smoke." As an old five or twenty-spot, battered and worn from years of journeying, comes limping into port, it is received and put into trunks which are carefully sealed. Mystery, romance, and tragedy lingers in those mysterious sealed trunks. No one except treasury officials knows how much is in the trunks. The bills are taken back to their old home, the place where they were born, for the funeral services.

Their birthplace was the bureau of printing and engraving. Here they are placed in a big macerator [a machine that soaks the paper into pulp]. The machine makes short work of the green and yellow backs turning them into a shapeless mass of dirty white pulp. Old money is always coming into the government treasure and being disposed of in this way. Launching the new currency last July [1929] greatly increased the work.

Today the face of paper currency has again changed. The size is the same as issued in 1929, but the pictures are larger and most people feel that it looks like "monopoly money". [People probably didn't like the smaller bills when they came out either]. The currency is also disposed of differently. We now have paper-shredders that can cross-cut and make the currency into tiny pieces. Today, among other novelties, you can actually acquire a pen that contains not only ink,

but the casing can hold a million dollars in ground up currency! [As the old saying goes, “It takes money to make money”!!]

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Search for Marlecia M. Reed.

A recent inquiry came from a woman who lives in North Carolina. She is in possession of a booklet, (possibly a school assignment), entitled "Marlecia Reed's Geographic Sketches, Rutland Vermont" dated September 17, 1809.

It has been difficult to find Marlecia M. Reed as there was a family in that time period named Reed that had 13 children. Many of them were female, but many of the births are not recorded, but, church baptism records do give some information.

This search also led back to a famous murder case. Joseph Green, a young storekeeper (age 27) was murdered on February 15, 1814. The widow of Mr. Green was one of the Reed girls named Marcia.

Mr. Green's store was located on the west side of North Main Street, just north of West Street. He was preparing to travel to Boston to purchase goods for the store and was carrying a valise full of money. It was discovered that he had never boarded the stage to Boston. A James Anthony had seen Mrs. Green and inquired about the family that same morning. The condition of his face (scratches and bruises) raised the suspicion of Mr. James Butler, another store owner in the vicinity (located where Grand Union now stands). When questioned by Mr. Butler, he claimed he had fallen down the stairs of his hat shop. Another person was looking around the shop while Mr. Anthony was being questioned. He found a body under a woodpile that was located under the stairs.

Mr. Anthony was tried and found guilty of the murder. He was placed in jail to await hanging and the jailer, (who was Mr. Green's father-in-law), turned the keys over to the Sheriff. Mr. Anthony was to be hanged on April 14, 1814. The gallows were erected on the hill near the northeast corner of Church and Crescent Streets (known in the following years as Gallows Hill). The village was filled as the crowd awaited the hanging. In the meantime it was discovered that Mr. Anthony had hung himself in his cell. Not to disappoint the crowd, it is said that a live dog was hung in place of Mr. Anthony. The gallows were dismantled and carted away by relic seekers.

Almost 59 years later on December 16, 1872, a Rutland Herald article appeared entitled "An Old Story Retold". It was recalled as the earliest capital crime in the County. There were a few "old men, now lingering on the confines of eternity" who could recall the story of the murder of Joseph Green.

More details could be recalled that showed there had been an "affray" between the two men (Green and Anthony). Even with the strong evidence, people were unwilling to believe that the crime of murder had been committed in their midst and supposed that Mr. Green was "withdrawn from public observation" because of the altercation.

Tidbits From Then and Now

We continue the search for Marlecia M. Reed, the "almost found"--- well, this type of thing is what can happen in any form of research.

According to baptism records, Marlecia M. Reed was baptized on May 27, 1809. This does not mean that she was an infant, but it would have been the same year that the beautiful sketches were made. The other factor is that according to death records, Marlecia M. Reed died at the age of 29 in November of 1840, which would mean that this particular Marlecia was not born until 1811! Now, was the Marlecia that did these beautiful geographic sketches an aunt, possibly a teacher and is that why the sketches were done?

As you can see, when one sets out on a research trip, there are many stumbling blocks that can "shoot a theory".

Most notable among the sketches received is this map of the United States that extends as far as the Mississippi River. Also note that the map has East and West Florida as that territory was not yet one.

Another interesting note about historical findings: Many glass plates have been donated to the Rutland Historical Society. Most notable [at this time] is a glass plate of a map of the Rutland Fairgrounds as it was in 1908, showing the location of each building. When printed, it would be interesting to compare with a copy of the mapping of the fairgrounds as they stand today.

If you intend to do any form of research, keep in mind that there will be "pitfalls". Don't give up and remember once you get "bitten" by the contagious research bug, it's almost impossible to control the outbreak of curiosity!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Many Rutland residents will remember when the Goodyear dirigible came to Rutland in August, 1938. Aldo Merusi, a noted Rutland photographer, could not miss the opportunity to take an “overview” picture of downtown Rutland from the blimp, showing the Railroad yard spread over several acres, the Federal Building, Clement Bank, the Mead Building and the Service Building. That picture appeared in the Rutland Herald on August 27, 1938.

“Goodyear Blimp at Wilson Field, south of the Rutland Fairgrounds”

From the ground, a photo in the Rutland Historical collections, shows an unidentified child with a view of the dirigible overhead. How many can remember being in that child’s position?

The most popular dirigible today, the Met Life dirigible, takes aerial photos over football games and appears to be driven by everyone’s friend Snoopy. Numerous airplanes have appeared at the Fair over the years, but the dirigible/blimp certainly has a special place in Rutland memories.

The article also indicates that Mr. Anthony insisted he was only “present” while someone else committed the murder.

Could the “earliest capital crime of the County” have benefited from the type of investigations that take place today? Would Mr. Anthony’s DNA have condemned him or would it have helped free him?

More about the search for Marlecia M. Reed next month!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Excerpts from Rutland County Fair notes in the Rutland Herald dated September 12, 1900

It is difficult to keep fakirs^[swindlers] out of any miscellaneous crowd, but it ought not to be difficult to keep the managers of so ancient and honorable an organization as the Rutland County Agricultural society from entering into a bargain to share the profits that may come from fooling the public.

Without mincing matters, we have heard that the fakirs, including two or three couchee-couchee shows that deserve to be taken in hand by the police, are giving the society a percentage of the gate money rather than a fixed sum of rental. If this is so, it places the managers of the fair in the position of partners in the business of exhibiting painted girls in improper costumes trained in the art of venturesome dancing, under the guise of working for the interests of agriculture. This is a fine bill of entertainment to spread before the children of the public schools, which were closed yesterday and will be closed today on account of the fair.

There is another point in yesterday's transactions on the fair grounds which the police should have attended to, and that is the breaking of the laws against gambling. There were at least 20 men with wheels and gambling devices, all bent by dishonest means upon taking away the few dollars which the country folk bring from their farms. Of course these people should know more than to run up against another man at his own game, but, as they do not, the officers of the agricultural society should see that they are protected from sharks during the few hours they are in Rutland attending the annual fair.

A Rutland County farmer, who lost \$25 on a pinched wheel Thursday, appealed to the sheriff's department for protection. The manager of the wheel told the officer that he would consult with his partner. He went off in search of his business associate, and has not yet turned up.

It is understood that the midway people are under contract to give to the agricultural society 40 per cent of their gross receipts. The tickets offered at the couchee-couchee tent were collected Thursday by a special agent of the agricultural society.

This contract entered into by the agricultural society this year with the midway people has done more to lessen public interest in the county fair than anything that has happened in Rutland for years. Painted girls and pinched wheels are poor things to boom the farming interest in this community.

And the Fair Association thinks they has problems today, [One hundred years later]!!

8/30/00
Aug 30 2000

Tidbits From Then and Now

September 11, 12 and 13, 1900 The 55 Annual fair of the Rutland County Agricultural Society was held. There was an estimated crowd of 8000 on Tuesday, the first day and over 5000 single admission tickets sold on each of the other two days. It is interesting that the fair was only a three-day event and started on Tuesday. The public schools were closed so the children could attend the fair.

Tuesday, day one: Bicycle Race won by Archie Carruthers; Concert by the Rappahannock Band; Trick Bicycle Rider Gives an Exhibition; Lively Times on the Midway; The Dog Show a Great Success; Prize Winners All Lines; Good Exhibits in All Lines; Horse Racing.

Wednesday, day two: Horse Racing took up most of the day with a peg race between heats, which was won by H.E. Seward [the winner in every peg race in Rutland for three years]; Filipo Saroni y Gato, a Cuban pianist, played at F.M. Grow's music booth in the floral hall; John B. Rafferty of Fair Haven featured trick bicycle riding; The dog show was visited by hundreds and the Grandstand was packed during the races. Had it not been for the violent wind storm which prevailed all day the crowd might have been even larger.

Thursday, the final day of the fair was a success, financially and from a horse-racing standpoint. The weather, although cool, was a great improvement over that of the day before. The crowd on the grounds was estimated at between 4000 and 5000. The horse races were interesting and often even exciting. It was a red-letter day for the midway. The Dog Show was the best thing on the grounds. It is not often that one gets a chance to see so fine a lot of blooded dogs as were collected there. A drawing match took place in the forenoon. The largest draft was one of 7700 pounds by a double team from Vermont marble company's mills in the contest between teams of 1200 pounds and over.

Throughout all three days, prizes were awarded for floral arrangements, vegetable and fruit displays, baking abilities and all other farm related feats.

One Hundred years later: The Vermont State Fair at Rutland takes place from Friday, September 1st through Sunday, September 10th. The following attractions will appear:

Day 1: Carnival opens; Concert by Starship. Day 2: Lumberjack Show, Carnival. 4-H Shows and exhibits, Semi & Log Truck Pull and a Memorial Dance. Day 3: Exhibits, Carnival, Dairy judging, Dog Show, Demolition Derby. Day 4: Exhibits, Carnival, Ronald McDonald Bike Giveaway, Davy Jones of the Monkees. Day 5: Free admission day, Vermont Horse Pull, Exhibits, Carnival, Country Exposure and another Horse Pull. Day 6: Pony Pulling Contest, Exhibits, Carnival, Novelty Demolition Derby, Pony Pull Free For All. Day 7: Ox Pulling, Exhibits, Carnival C&C Music Factory, ATV Pulling Contest. Day 8: Exhibits, Carnival, Dairy Showmanship, Auto Thrill Show & Monster Trucks. Day 9: Antique Tractor Pulls, Steer & Ox Show, Draft Horse Show, Exhibits, Carnival, 4-H awards Ceremony, Concert by The Charlie Daniels Band. Day 10: Open Horse Show, Exhibits, Carnival, Vermont State Demolition Derby.

We also have: Blazak's Tigers; Al the Artist; Great Little Bear Show; Alfie the Cockatoo & Company; Stilt Walker "Tall Tex"; Fun Time Farm & Petting Zoo; Mindbenderz Hypnotist; Topsy Turvey Talent Show; Rosarire's Racing Pigs; Zoppe's Family Circus and Rock Fountain Carving.

While enjoying all these exciting, entertaining, and "noisy" goings on, step back, take a deep breath and think of the "calm" excitement of 100 years ago when there were mostly animal judging, horse races, floral and vegetable displays and 4-H exhibitions. Oops, forget those girly shows!!

Have fun at the fair!

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Changing Face of Rutland

Excerpt from an article in the Rutland Newsliner [published in the interest of the employees of the Rutland Railway] dated June-July 1956.

Depot Park Fifty Years Ago . . .

Back at the turn of the century, the Rutland [Railway] decided that it would have wings added to the station at Rutland, VT. After this was completed, it was felt that a new lawn in front of the buildings would greatly improve its appearance. The local soil was of an inferior grade and would not grow a good looking lawn, so the Rutland [Railway] sent out to Chicago for 950 square yards of dormant sod, at a price of 15 cents a square yard. These sod, already seeded and ready to grow, are believed to have come from the Chicago Stockyards. This transplanting of Chicago soil took place during the summer of 1905 [pictured]. Three days after the sod was placed, the lawn was already turning green.

The electric cars, [left background] North Belt and South Belt were always welcome in the spring. These were all open and the breeze drifted through them on the hot summer days. There was also an electric car that went to Lake Bomoseen, and many Rutland residents rode out there for an afternoon swim, or a picnic in the park. These were the days of the horse drawn taxis, or hacks as they were called in those days. [note horse and carriage in background. It is also interesting to note the workers, "sidewalk supervisors" and observers!]

Almost a half century later, in 1954, the City of Rutland bought the station and grounds to construct a parking lot. When it was learned that the green would be replaced by pavement, the city received over 400 requests for some of the rich top soil; however, the City stockpiled it for use in patching up Main Street Park and other needy places.

Today, 100 years later, there is a shopping plaza where the station was located. A new "mini" station has been built for the Amtrak line and the downtown park [although altered by cement sidewalks and benches] is located in the same area pictured in the photo. The grass in Main Street Park still thrives and is enjoyed by Rutland residents taking advantage of musical and art events that take place there during the summer months.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Notes taken from the Rutland Herald dated 1/7/1864

"An exchange says that coal has fallen in Philadelphia. We learn on good authority that coal can be bought in New York for seven dollars a ton. If such is the fact the question arises whether coal dealers hereabouts could not come down a peg." [They even had home/business heating problems then!!]

"The Rutland Farmer's Club will meet next Monday evening at 7 o'clock, at the Franklin House. Subject for discussion, "How Shall the Vermont Farmer Manage His Farm to Make it Most Profitable." The public is invited." [Today's farmers are just concerned about keeping their farms!]

"Backsliders--Twenty-four of the "sons" and "daughters" of Rutland, drawn by six elegant horses, took a ride to Brandon, on Wednesday last. On their way home the same evening, hoops and skirts, bonnets and hats, were all mixed up together in the ditch by the road-side. The horses were all sober, but it is whispered that McManus, of the Brandon House, put something soothing in the coffee and that, that's what's the matter.--*Courier*

[To the] Editor Rutland Herald: --I would say to the author of the above that he is mistaken in regard to the accident taking place on their way home. Such was not the case. It occurred on their way to Brandon. Therefore the something soothing, if any there was, came from the direction of Rutland. But there was no indication of anything of the kind, more than the natural merriment of young people generally, and a more temperate and well behaved party never visited Brandon from Rutland or any other town. However, the people of Brandon are of a generous and Christian nature, and are always ready to soothe and comfort the weary traveller on his way, and should *the writer* of the *above* ever come this way, we will serve him likewise. Very respectfully yours, MJM." [I can only guess that MJM is "McManus"]

Sounds like an the old fashioned hay ride and they had more fun then they bargained for. The present generation of "sons" and "daughters" have different transportation which is faster and more dangerous. They have radios/stereos and all sorts of modern/electronic entertainment. But, are they having as much fun??!!

#66
9/21

Tidbits From Then and Now

September 21, 1920

FOOTBALL SEASON IS TO OPEN SATURDAY

Baxter's lot is the place. It has been selected by football Coach O'Brien of Rutland High School for the initial game next Saturday afternoon with the strong eleven of Montpelier High School. The game was arranged yesterday morning.

The local squad which has been weeded out from 50 boys to about 35 was put through some real strenuous practice at the field last evening. The drills will continue for the remainder of the week as Montpelier High is one of the toughest elevens in the Northern part of the state.

"Obie" was busy at the field last evening with the tackling dummy endeavoring to instill into his charges that the fundamental principles of good tackling are to "hit 'em hard and low" and make good clean tackles. He is also keen for speed and Rutland High, for the past four years have been noted for quickness of action.

According to the dope of some former high school stars, Rutland High is going to have a first class eleven. The team this year will be built around Barber, Manfreda, Chapleau and Elias Haddad, who has been chosen captain.

"Nicky" Manfreda, generally acknowledged as the best of the half-backs of the Vermont schools last year, is playing true to form this year and is already in the pink of condition. Local football followers are pinning great faith on this star to "bring home the bacon" for Rutland in some of the hard games. Capt. Haddad, who was a real star last year, will undoubtedly be seen taking good care of one of the end positions. Barber, it is understood, is slated for quarter back which will give him ample opportunity to carry the ball which made him famous in several of the games last year. Chapleau at full back is a tower of strength. He is fast, his work on Coach Kingsley's track team was a valuable asset to him, and he is also an excellent kicker. Taylor, the other candidate for the back field, is also showing excellent form and at present is outkicking any member of the squad. "Abie" Rice, second string quarterback on last year's squad, is another of the promising candidates. This boy, unless something unforeseen happens, appears to have an excellent chance of making the first line this year. "Abie" Friedman, another member of last year's squad, is another likely candidate and "Abe" is showing some real class in practice. "Hooky" Norton, who was with the squad last year, is right out among them this year, and some of his "shoe string" tackles are a feature of the practice.

The fame of the Rutland coach in turning out first-class football teams appears to be far-reaching as yesterday he received a telephone offer of a position to coach the Bethlehem, Penn., Preparatory School eleven for the remainder of the season. He also received an offer yesterday from the University of Wyoming to take charge of the athletics at that institution. He has signed his contract with the local school and for the present year will undoubtedly endeavor to bring some scholastic championships to the Rutland school.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Taken from Rutland Herald, January 7, 1864

The telegraph, in this fast age, is becoming the medium for business transactions to almost the same extent as the mails. Hence lawsuits are springing up, testing the liability of telegraph companies, and ere long we shall probably have a large space in our reports and digests devoted to "telegraph law."

Two interesting cases were heard in the courts: "Plaintiff John Wann received by telegraph a message from New York dated September 18, 1862, as follows: "Shall we forward salt by steam or by sail, on lake;" to which plaintiff replied on the next day, "Ship by sail." The defendant telegraphed the message, "Ship by rail," and the salt was sent by railroad, at an expense of \$1024 more than it would have cost to ship by steam or sail on lake. The court instructed the jury that the defendant was a common carrier, and in spite of any disclaimer would be liable, if guilty of negligence or carelessness in transmitting said message. The sole question submitted to the jury was whether the defendant was guilty of the negligence or carelessness charged; and the jury found for the plaintiff the amount of damage claimed, with interest.

The other case was of a telegraph operator refusing to send a message on the ground that its contents were known by him to be untrue. The plaintiff sued the company for damage. The Judge ruled, and the jury sustained the ruling by their verdict, that a telegraph company is not liable for refusing to send a dispatch which is manifestly false.

Today we have the computer! There is a lot of discussion about use and abuse of its many capabilities for business and entertainment. Will laws start regulating this type of transmission? E-mail gets there fast (if the person receiving is checking messages!!). I have no trouble typing and sending messages, but, a slip of the finger can change a word and a whole meaning of a sentence. The computer won't pick it up if it is a word (unless you have an advanced computer that understands what you really meant to say). THIS could get you in trouble!

Then you can "surf the web". Maybe some can, but so far I get totally confused trying to find things. My oldest son (the computer whiz) recently set up a family web site and you guessed it, he set me up as the administrator of the thing. I'm supposed to add birth dates, anniversaries, and such events to it. Have I been able to do so---No! I can't even get into it. Every time I try, I get something that tells me that I can set up my own site. Oh well, I probably would have had difficulty learning the Morse Code when they came out with the telegraph system.

But I won't give up trying to conquer this modern technology. From what I've WATCHED, it can be a lot of fun.

OCT 4, 2000

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, February 1891

Need of Comprehensive System--Dangers and Disadvantages of Rutland's Disconnected Sewers--Location, Size and Grade Should be Determined in a Scientific Way.

.....Rutland has no sewerage system. A series of isolated sewers or drains does not by any means compose a system of sewers and cannot be made to do the work of such a system. You can get some idea of the difference between a sewerage system and a set of random sewers by the lack of drainage on a portion of South Main Street. Here, is a gap of 300 feet without any kind of adequate sewerage. One street may have a first-class sewer, laid at great expense, but how can that afford protection from the unsanitary condition of the next street, where there is no drainage? Practically, a disconnected set of sewers is far from complete, even if the gaps between the several members are not very long. These disjointed sewers will not give anything like the efficiency of the complete system. It would be like trying to light the village from a central station with half the wires broken; the severed ends might not be far apart, but they would have lost their virtue as transmitters and the effect of the fracture, like the effect of the gap between the sewers, would be more than local.

The different sewers built here from time to time, without plan or method, cannot readily be incorporated into one harmonious system. First, the grades will not agree; then the sizes will not correspond, and after closing the gaps as suggested and thereby diverting the flow it will be found that some of the others are too small to take the sewage, while others will not receive enough to flush them; again trouble will doubtless arise in attempting to connect sewers of different shapes and materials. But the greatest trouble will be due to the inferior quality of the work already done. It is well known that many of the old sewers even in the business portion of the village display very crude workmanship. The danger lurking in these has been repeatedly pointed out by our local physicians in addresses before their medical societies and before the board of trade.

Mr. William B. Thrall has stated that in 1884 Civil Engineer Dow of Burlington was here several weeks, made a survey of the village and laid out a complete system of sewerage. Maps were drawn showing how sewers should be laid in every street in the village, and they are now in the trustees' room. Only one sewer was ever laid according to that system and that was on Woodstock Avenue from the reservoir to Main Street. That is the reason our sewer system is imperfect.

Rutland, like many another little city, too proud or too generous, to profit by the experience of other municipalities, has chosen in the past to pay its own good money for its own poor experience with public works. Until it gets tired of that method there is no use talking about a new one.

Today, in the year 2000, we know there are many added streets, many more lines of sewerage and modern plants to address disposal of the sewerage, but, there are still some outdated and worn

out pipes in some parts of the city to be dealt with (everything ages!!!) even as we read this, pipes are being laid, and guess where----Woodstock Avenue.

Incidentally, the Rutland Historical Society has on display an end piece of log pipe [about 10 inches], retrieved from Main Street, that was used to carry water from Mendon to Rutland. A six-foot piece of log pipe, dug up recently on Rutland 4 East, [Woodstock Avenue] has been offered to the Society.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Recently the Rutland Historical Society received a document regarding the sale of a property that is well known to all of Rutland's older citizens. This prompted me to peruse the City Directories to find out more about the building. The following paragraphs are excerpts of a typed letter dated April 5, 1916:

"Received from the Rutland Machine and Automobile Company, twenty-five dollars (\$25.00), as deposit on the purchase of the building on West Street, known as The Colonial Theatre." [and added in writing] "With all furnishings & equipment as now stands except the bowling equipment & Billiards in basement."

"It is further agreed that the purchase price shall be twenty-thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars (\$20,250.00), from which the above deposit shall be deducted. The Dyer Mortgage of sixteen thousand, five hundred dollars (\$16,500.00) is to stand and the balance is to be paid according to verbal conversation had between the parties April 4th, 1916.

The 1915 City Directory lists the Colonial Block which contained the Colonial Theatre and Colonial Bowling Alley.

Charles A. Matthews was in a business as Clark and Matthews in 1903 as a Bicycle and Automobile repair service. In the 1905-6 Directory they focused more on auto repair. By the 1907-8 Directory the company is called The Rutland Machine and Automobile Company, and had moved to Wales Street where they remained until 1916. In 1909-10 an advertisement indicates that the company is the "largest garage and repair shop in the state". The 1917 Directory shows the new location of the company at 107-109 West Street. Over the years, advertisements in the Directories show the variety of cars and trucks that were sold there.

By 1935 Burke's Garage is occupying 107 West Street and the West Street Cash Market is at 109 West. Then an Oriental Rug Shop appears. By 1940, 105 becomes Rutland Bowling Center; 107 is Joe's Barber Shop and 109 contains the A & P Tea Co., as well as Rutland Bowling Center. In 1941 John A. Valente has billiards in with Rutland Bowling Center.

1965, The Carriage Room Restaurant (formerly Valente's Luncheonette) is at 103; Colonial Lanes Inc. at 107 along with Gene's Barber Shop. In 1969 107 West Street combines all former street listings from 103 through 107 West. Bowling, Billiards, The Colonial Restaurant, The Carriage Room as well as Gene's Barber Shop. Other small businesses moved in and out of the building. In December of 1988 the building was demolished.

In 1989, the City exchanged the lot on Edson Street for this lot at the corner of Cottage and West Streets. Many Rutlanders have fond memories of the bowling alleys and especially The Colonial Restaurant and the Carriage Room. Once again the lot is involved with cars---it's a parking lot!

It's really amazing just how much fun can be had by picking up a City Directory, no matter what date, and finding fascinating information about where things were and how the face of Rutland has changed.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Fifty years ago on October 18, 1950 it was reported, in the Rutland Herald that the Sisters of St. Joseph had the highest bid on the Rutland Junior College property.

A surprisingly high offer of \$4700 won for the Sisters of St. Joseph Society the right to purchase the personal property of the bankrupt Rutland Junior College as sealed bids for the college furniture and equipment were opened yesterday in the office of Bankruptcy Referee Charles J. Marro.

The only other bid received was that of Marlboro College for \$4505, submitted by the college's president, Walter Hendricks.

The Sisters, who last week purchased the real estate of the defunct college for about \$20,000 to set up a convent and adjunct to the Mount St. Joseph Academy, had originally bid \$2500 for the personal property on the grounds. This figure had been set by Referee Marro as the minimum price for which the goods would be sold.

Explanation for the second, higher bid was made by the Sisters through their attorney, A.J. Spero. They said they had "reconsidered" their former offer of purchase since many of the articles involved have become more valuable and harder to get since the first offer last summer. The sisters also pointed out that classes of Mount St. Joseph students are already in session on the RJC property. [Because of overcrowding at the Academy on Convent Avenue, the principal, Fr. John Lynch, had placed the incoming Freshman class at the former RJC along with two Sisters of St. Joseph as their teachers]. If the equipment was sold to someone else and had to be removed from the premises, it would cause "considerable confusion," according to Mr. Spero.

The proceeds from the sale will go to pay the costs of administering the bankruptcy proceedings, consisting principally of attorneys' fees, with the remainder to be divided among the defunct college's numerous creditors on a priority basis. Claims for back salaries by former teachers at the college alone total \$10,425 which means that the purchase price set yesterday will do little to absolve the overall debt. The \$20,000 proceeds from the sale of the real estate to the Sisters did not go to the creditors but to the Marble Savings Bank, which held a mortgage on the property.

Attorneys Hayden LaBrake, Joseph M. O'Neil, E.G. McClellan, Martin J. Delliveneri and Joseph Radigan represented creditors at the hearing, as well as Appraiser Daniel Murphy and C. Getty Page, a member of the creditors' committee and one of the ex-teachers seeking back salary from the college. Donald M. French was the attorney for the trustee.

Finding this article was a bit exciting to this writer. Fifty years ago the Sisters of St. Joseph purchased the property known as Clementwood. Now, fifty years later the Rutland Historical Society has received a donation of hundreds of glass plates ["negatives"] which include several pictures of Clementwood---of the grounds with its pond and greenhouse, as well as pictures of many rooms inside the beautiful home originally built by Charles Clement. Clementwood stands today at the edge of a full college campus that grew from that purchase fifty years ago.

Tidbits From Then and Now

October 7, 1950: City's 'Black Maria' [Mariah] Soon to be Retired After Long Service

The Rutland Police Department's "Black Mariah", a veteran beat-pounder with more than 100,000 miles under her fan belt, [purchased in 1940] will soon be retired in favor of a streamlined pick-up truck.

The all-purpose vehicle, costing between \$1700 and \$1800, half of which will come from the municipal parking meter fund will probably be reduced somewhat by the trade-in value of the old truck.

In its pre-war hey-day, the van was used primarily for trundling felons to Rutland County Jail. Countless glum visaged prisoners have stared forlornly through the vehicle's plate glass windows.

The van was particularly useful during the great flood of 1947 when it did triple duty as an ambulance, bus and equipment carrier. During recent years it has served as a truck-of-all-trades, carrying signs, paint machinery and meter and traffic light equipment.

The advent of two sleek patrol cars has curtailed the van's usefulness as a "paddy wagon". The Chief remarked in jest that the truck should be turned over to the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, DC. Although the chief was joking, some Rutlanders considered it an excellent idea.

Wouldn't it be fun if there was a "paddy wagon" around for the Halloween Parade? Would it bring back some scary memories to some who have learned to behave after having ridden in it? But, there are some memories that might make you laugh! I was told that when my two older brothers were about four and five, they tried to take a trip on the train [alone!] to visit grandma. One major problem was that they had the family German Shepherd with them. Since the dog wouldn't let anyone get near either boy, the final solution was to have them get off the train and sit in the "paddy wagon" with the dog protecting them the whole way home, which fortunately wasn't too far.

Get out and enjoy a night of hoots and howls at the Halloween Parade. Remember, Rutland's Halloween Parade has always been one of the best!

NOV 1, 2000

Tidbits From Then and Now

Letter to the Editor, October 5, 1950

"Well, I see the state of Vermont has finally succeeded in stopping stock car racing. I'll bet they're proud of themselves. Personally, I think it's the worst thing that they could have done. Why don't they just ask the people to stop breathing in this part of the country and just give up all pleasures.

I never missed a stock car race, whenever they were on and the boys that participated in them were happy when they were on the track. If they don't race on the track, you will find quite a few on the highways. After all, who's risking their necks, but the drivers, and that's their business.

It won't be long before you can plough the state under, just a few more incidents like this and it will really be dead. This won't stop stock car racing altogether, they'll only move over to New York State and keep up the sport. At least New York is smart.---A Stock Car Fan"

(Editor's note: As we understand it, stock car racing hasn't been stopped in Vermont. It has only been stopped on Sunday because it is not one of the amusements for which admission is paid that are authorized under the Sunday Observance Law. Stock Car racing on week days is legal, as far as we know)

Boy, you can just imagine how upset "Stock Car Fan" was. Let's hope the editor was right. We still have some race tracks in Vermont, including Thunder Road and Devils Bowl. Stock Car racing has such a fascination for all ages. Maybe it's the little inner daredevil in all of us that makes the challenge of racing draw such attention. Even before cars could perform at high speed, horses were the mode of a good race.

Thought you might enjoy how riled up a Stock Car fan can get when something threatens to dampen the thrill of racing! Or, come to think of it, how Vermonters can get riled up when their way of life is being challenged.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, November 8, 1950

Recreation Dep't Offering Help To Party-Givers

A new service to provide help and advice for party-givers has been started by the city recreation department, it was announced by Recreation Director James F. Herdic, Jr.

The Department, without any charge, will help anyone plan a dance, a dinner or just a family get-together, select entertaining games and decorations for parties, advise theatrical groups on costuming, programs and scenery, and obtain anyone from a square dance caller to a leader for athletic events.

The department will also lend out athletic gear and other equipment it has in stock to private groups or individuals for special events--the Rotary fieldhouse, center of the city's recreation program, is available for use at a nominal fee. However, most of the department's service in this connection will be in an advisory capacity. Party tips will be available for all age groups--whether it's for an annual club dance or a birthday party for a five-year-old.

What a generous offering. Can you imagine how swamped the department would be today if they still did all that for anyone asking!! Keep in mind that this service was made available fifty years ago. I wonder if there were any weddings and receptions planned by the department then. Wish we had had that in my home town, would have saved my folks lots of money!!

Let's face it, in today's world people want to plan their own parties. We have all kinds of advice to draw from: magazines that are put out particularly for the brides-to-be; baby shower ideas; children's parties based on popular idol themes (of course I'm thinking of Barbie and Pooh!) And guess what! We have MacDonalds!!

We still have the Recreation Department involved in promoting and teaching all kinds of sports. Rutland has a great pool and summer camp experiences for all children. Playgrounds in various areas around the city and help with facilities can always be found when an organization wants to put on an event. Rutland has always been fortunate to have a healthy recreation department---How about that Halloween Parade!

11/15/00
#74

Nov 15, 2000

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, November 15, 1950

Stamp Collecting One Hobby Having Its Own Special Week:

Some people maintain strings of race horses, some play dominoes, and others, including the late Franklin D. Roosevelt collect stamps. All of which goes to prove that hobbies, like personalities, differ.

Mayor Dan J. Healy has issued a statement proclaiming to the people of Rutland and vicinity that the week of November 13 through November 19 be officially known as "Stamp Collecting Week".

The week will be highlighted by the release of new United States embossed stamped envelopes which will be brought forth in the following order: a one-cent green with portrait of Benjamin Franklin on Thursday; a two-cent red with likeness of George Washington on Friday; and a three-cent purple with head of George Washington on Saturday. Yes people, that was also the cost to mail a letter!

According to Thomas B. McDevitt, collecting postage stamps can be an advantage to both young and old. Through the study of various designs and inscriptions, a youngster can increase his knowledge of the world. (My fourth son will have my head for this, but, when he was quite little he grew very interested in foreign stamps and all he wanted for that Christmas was a record to learn to speak Chinese. He had been copying the Chinese characters from the stamps to figure out what they said).

A well rounded topical stamp collection can further an interest in any subject. For older persons, along with the knowledge gained, they can gain the pleasure of having a worthwhile occupation with which to occupy a few spare leisure hours.

Thomas McDevitt's stamp and postcard collection was always an outstanding contribution to the Rutland State Fair. Rutland still maintains a stamp club and although it can absorb a great deal of time, stamp collecting can still be a good financial investment as well as a great educational tool.

RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Tidbits From Then and Now

How many can remember the hurricane in November of 1950? The following are some of the sidelights that appeared in the November 28th issue of the Rutland Herald:

One Rutland family which went to bed early Sunday night because there were no lights or heat in the house, was awakened with a start. The power had been restored and a radio in the house had been left turned on full.

The candle supply in most houses in the city had reached the point of exhaustion when lights were restored thus saving the day. Candles and lanterns were at a premium

Only two stores in the downtown business district were closed yesterday because of damage caused by the storm. They were Wilson's toy annex and Fletcher's situated side by side on Center Street.

One merchant got the jump on the rest on storm damage sales. A small table containing the merchandise which had been soiled by water dripping through a broken skylight was set up Monday morning and the goods offered at a bargain to observing customers.

The manager of one other large department store on Merchants Row reported little water damage when one of the show windows blew out Saturday night, but said yesterday afternoon the morale of the store had been disrupted. Slyly he admitted he was the one who got "soaked to the skin" rescuing the merchandise.

More than one customer in a downtown Rutland bar Saturday night commented on the amount of "atmosphere" provided by the candles, which were pinch-hitting for electric lights. Some suggested that the owners make them a regular feature.

At the height of the storm one Rutland woman, undaunted by the lack of electric lights and unafraid of the high wind, sat calmly while a relative gave her a home permanent.

Among the oddities of the storm was the appearance of a street light in the middle of an intersection of two roads. This occurred at Burnham and Lincoln Avenues when the pole snapped and wires held the street light suspended like a traffic light over the intersection.

Not all the heroes were on the fire and police departments and other service units. The Herald's Betty McWhorter returned to work Sunday morning from her New York state home to find the roof gone from above her apartment on Woodstock Avenue. While her personal property lay scattered about the apartment soaked by the rain that drove through the gap in the roof, Miss McWhorter reported to work and spent the entire day--into early Monday morning--collecting and writing The Herald's lead story on the storm, vividly recounting the damage done to other people's property while her own had yet to be salvaged from the sodden apartment.

Although fall months seem to be the time for hurricanes, the year 2000 has newspapers reporting high winds, hurricanes and tornadoes in many parts of the country. Let's hope they don't come this way again!

Tidbits From Then and Now

11/30/50

Condition of Lovett Vital

Veteran Pivot Man, Who Was Injured in Grid Season, to Get off to Slow Start

Basketball came into focus at the Rutland Memorial Armory yesterday as 40 candidates answered the call of Mt. St. Joseph Coach Ed Casey, whose 1950-51 array is expected to be one of the leading contenders for the Southern Vermont Basketball league championship.

A major question in the Mt. St. Joseph camp involved the condition of Long Tom Lovett, an All-Tournament nominee for the past two years. Lovett was forced out of football action because of a badly sprained ankle and he's still nursing that injury.

Lovett has been the MSJ pivot man for the past two seasons and is MSJ's top scorer. Serving as Co-captain with Lovett is senior Pat Levins, a steady ball player and a topnotch rebounder despite his size. He was selected on the All-Tourney team last year.

Working with Levins in the back court will be "Bullet" Bill Nugent, another man with two years of varsity experience under his belt. His value lies in his ability as a play-maker and his specialty is a long setshot.

At the forward posts, big Henry Colodonato looms a starter at the left forward post vacated by the departed Jack Hurley. Colodonato is a better than average rebounder and has a deadly left-hand setshot.

The other forward post is a toss-up between Al Barbagallo, Slam Romano, and Jack Eaton. Barbagallo saw limited service last season while Romano and Eaton ranked one-two in the Jay-Vee scoring department.

Other varsity candidates include Pete Miner, Hulla Cioffi, the speedy Bob Vignoe, the two Carrolls, Bob J. and Bob H. and Eddie Copps. Casey laid down the law by telling the hoop hopefuls that he wants nobody to rest on his past laurels. Any newcomer who shows more hustle than the veteran will be given the nod over the "sure bet starters". In short, what mentor Casey wants is a hustling ball club.

This year the Saints will play all of their home contests at the armory. This will be a welcome change from the last two years when they had to shift constantly from the Armory to the Rutland High School gym.

DEC 6, 2000

Tidbits From Then and Now

12/7/50

Mail Early and Avoid Holiday Rush--Duffy

Rutland Postmaster Frank H. Duffy, Jr., yesterday gave local residents a few tips on Christmas mail, and indicated the problems anticipated in handling the holiday rush.

Duffy predicted that this year's flood of Christmas mail will break 1949's high when a record 555,000 pieces of holiday mail were cancelled locally.

Here's what the postoffice advises in getting the mails through:

Christmas packages should be mailed immediately. It's already late for parcel post, but gifts for nearby points will be delivered on time if mailed by December 9th.

Christmas cards headed out-of-state should be mailed by December 15 and cards for local delivery at least a week before the holiday.

Don't clutter up the package with labels. Duffy said "some packages carry more stickers and labels than an overseas steamer trunk." Keep the face of the package clear for the address and mailing instructions.

Get stamps now. Postoffices have to meet incredible demands for stamps during the last days before Christmas, and you'll guarantee yourself enough stamps if you purchase early.

The postmaster advised that the postoffice windows are most crowded at lunch time and late in the afternoon. He recommended mailing packages before 10 am and between 1:30 and 3:30 pm to avoid long lines and aching feet.

555,000 pieces of mail 50 years ago. Can you even imagine how many go through the mails today? There are many choices for ways to send packages today. Even so, there can still be lines to wait in even when it's not a holiday.

#78
DEC 13, 2000

Tidbits From Then and Now

December 14, 1950

Pajamas, Not Red Flannels

Montpelier, December 13--Governor Arthur lost the seat of his pajamas here today, but it was all in the interests of the American Cancer Society.

The pajama seat will go into a patch quilt patterned after a map of the United States with Governor Arthur's sleeping togs representing Vermont on the map.

The quilt will be auctioned off by Art Linkletter on the "People Are Funny" show and the proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.

Don Haynes 41, former sailor and now publicity man from Ashland, Ore., called on the governor and obtained the pajama set. He is visiting the governors of all 48 states for the same reason.

Real Break

That fickle Lass; Dame Fortune, singled out Anthony W. Altobell, Jr, of 90 Harrington Avenue last night. Anthony was watching Bert Parks' television show "Break the Bank" when the telephone rang. You guessed it--an invitation from Bert asking Anthony to come to New York City to appear on the TV show next Wednesday night. And, incidentally, an opportunity to "break the bank" for \$1,200.

The Mt. St. Joseph Academy senior will fly to New York on an all-expense paid trip and will have \$150 to spend in the process.

12/21/50 [update]

Quiz Kid

Rutland's quiz kid, Anthony Altobell, Jr., Bert Parks' guest on "Break the Bank" didn't win the grand prize, but he isn't coming home empty-handed either. Anthony missed two of the questions in the category he chose and wound up with \$300. At one point he had won \$500. If he had broken the bank the tidy sum of \$1,200 would have been his.

Not quite like "Who Wants to be a Millionaire?" But, for 50 years ago that wasn't a bad prize that Anthony took home and remember, the paid-for trip and spending money were a bonus!

Dec 20, 2000

Tidbits From Then and Now

December 21, 1950

Begin Repair of Damaged Church Steeple

Workmen from a Malden, Massachusetts wrecking firm yesterday began work on the storm damaged steeple at St. Peter's Church. It was estimated the steeple would be off by March 1, [1951], depending on weather conditions.

Architects for a new spire for the church have plans for the new structure on the drawing board and expect to submit plans for bids in March or April.

NOTE: The steeple would cost too much and the tower was capped until the 70's when a new spire was put in place.

Red Cross expresses anxiety over failure of prospective blood donors to return drawing notification cards. The blood drive must be successful to reach the assigned 120 pints which are directed at supplying blood for the armed forces. This assignment is currently responsible for a gigantic drain on blood resources which in turn deplete local hospital supplies necessary for adequate civilian defense.

[Does this sound familiar? Currently the newspapers are reporting a shortage of blood donations throughout the United States. We are not at war, but other factors occur in society that make a good blood supply a necessity today] Hey! Isn't this time of giving a good time to think about something like this?---only costs an "arm prick"!

Happy Holidays!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, December 28, 1950

Name Judge to Pick Queen of Hospital Dance

Two men will make up the panel of judges for selection of a 1950 Queen at the second annual Rutland Hospital Charity Dance and Cotillion to be held in the Armory tomorrow night.

The judges are Harris W. Soule of Burlington, managing director of the Vermont Development Commission and Robert D. Proctor of Brandon, president of the Green Mountain Development Association.

Ray Anthony and his orchestra with Betty Halliday and Ronnie Halliday as vocalists, will furnish music.

The queen will be named and crowned after intermission. Prior to this 16 Rutland and Proctor High School girls will perform the Cotillion. They have been coached by Miss Irene Lee and Miss Loraine Lee.

Chairman of the dance committee is Mrs. H. Stetson Fletcher. Mrs. Payson R. Webber and Mrs. Robert G. Wilson are in charge of decorations; Mrs. George G. Smith, the cotillion; Mrs. Alberic Bellerose, music and Mrs. George Keen Chaffee, publicity.

Miss Therese Vigneau of Proctor was the 1949 dance queen.

[Headline from The Rutland Herald dated 12/30/50: Carlene Johnson of Rutland crowned queen]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, June 1901

Old Rutland

By Newman Weeks

The old time Rutland was far away
And time has brought a newer day:
The old time men were good and true
And to them, all honor is due.

From the days when soldiers built the fort,
Old Rutland gave a good report;
Her sons were loyal, true and brave.
Not one could be old England's slave.

All men were ready for army rolls,
In darkest days that tried men's souls;
And the women true, with hearts on fire,
Would all with courage and faith inspire.

Old Rutland village on the hill so high,
Could storms and floods forever defy;
From four directions a good approach,
The only conveyance the old stage coach.

Rutland having the greatest renown
Was early selected the first "shire town;"
A "shire town," of course, without any fail,
Must have a court house and then a jail.

Williams and Pierpont, judges at court,
In all public life made good report;
Edgerton as sheriff, and Hopkins as clerk,
Kept lawyers and jurors busy at work.

In earlier time the good, pious people
Must have churches and on them a steeple;
The judge and parson, sheriff and jailer,
Were as much needed as merchant and tailor.

The churches were three, all on Main Street
Where saints and sinners could weekly meet.
Revs. Mitchell, Howard and Rector Hicks,
On spiritual grounds never could mix.

All towns have leading men, it is said,
But East Rutland then stood at the head;
They were Temple, Williams, Hodges, Strong,
Well-known by all when passing along.

Butler, Porter, Daniels, Pierpont and Cook,
Familiar faces to all as they look;
Barrett, Edgerton, Hall, Dyer and Green,
On old Main Street could daily be seen.

Page, Burt, Bell, Mason, Robbins and Fay,
Were always on hand from day to day;
Foot, Ormsbee, Royce, Thrall, Everts,
Smith--lawyer band,
All cases in court would take in hand.

George Graves, the tanner, he run the vats,
O. Cook, the hatter, made the best hats;
Ethan Judd had a shop, made wares of tin,
Cheney's cooper shop had pails within.

Ambrose L. Brown was the old town clerk,
And also surveyor with plenty of work;
At Porter's drug store on West Street hill,
Was calomel, ipecac, and every kind of pill.

Dyer had a meat market and hotel,
And also livery and horses to sell;
Old Otis Fisher, near court house, had a stand,
With fruit, pies, gingerbread always on hand.

James Taylor, colored barber, on Main Street,
Took pains with white men, shaved them very neat.
The dancers had music near at hand,
Colored men and women, "Freeman's Band."

Bill Avery, stage agent, always at his post,
Whenever stage arrived stood beside the host;
The well known drivers were Dunton and Cain,
There were no better men to handle a rein.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, June 1901
Old Rutland
By Newman Weeks

cont'd.

#81 1/2
Hall was Probate judge, harnessmaker, too,
Knight was tailor that stitched through and through;
Hawks as the postmaster suited very well,
If one had a letter he could always tell.

John Price, wagonmaker, only one in town,
For those who paid well, would do the job brown;
Buck and Curtiss chairs made good and stout,
They hurt chair trade as they never wore out.

Jackson and Verder made crackers and bread,
And at hotels all boarders were fed;
Cheney and Edson made buildings of brick,
And for ready cash would do a job quick.

Six by eight window glass, was common size,
Eight by ten was an unusual surprise;
When all else was completed and done,
The men to do painting were Howard & Son.

Anthony's hat shop, on Main Street seen,
Was the place of murder of one Jo Green;
Anthony convicted and sentenced to die,
Hung himself in prison the law to defy.

The gallows built on a near by hill,
Stood there useless, no one to kill;
The town full of people, the talk very loud,
So they hung a dog to please the crowd.

In eighteen forty, the red, white and blue
Waved at success of "Old Tippecanoe;"
A real log cabin, a Rutland invention,
With oxen was drawn to Brandon convention.

The military spirit could not expire,
With General Hopkins and Captain Dyer;
June training came with every summer,
Holbrook as fifer, and Blanchard as drummer.

At Lord and Goddard's in corner block,
Was the place to buy a good brass clock;
Bennett, Chaffee and Spencer, jewelry sold,
And the best watches, silver and gold.

Eben Chaffee, clothier, sold to his brother,
Henry Paine down town, he was another;
Fred Chaffee sold spoons, all solid silver,
Had men on the road to sell and deliver.

Bailey made spoons of pure silver coin,
From which, when melted, no dross was drawn;

He was jeweler and also Clark Brothers,
And at that time there were no others.

Valiquette, saddler, boots and shoes made,
Graves, Johnson, Billings had a good trade;
The first down-town firm in days of yore
Was Landon and Graves in "Old Red Store."

The Rutland Herald, a weekly sheet,
Was printed by hand press, on Main Street;
Frank Wilkins pressman, George Tuttle printer,
Price to farmers, a cord of wood in winter.

Beaman was editor on the old Whig plan,
Was well posted about the "Isle of Man;"
From telling the truth he could not refrain,
And, by so doing, hit Neighbor Cain.

The Reed, Franklin, Dyer and Huntoon hotel,
Furnished board and lodgings and rum as well;
In those old days, 'twas thought no reproach
To get helpless drunk and call a coach.

Now, it's New Rutland, twenty times as large,
More schools and churches, more police in charge;
Are we any better, more honest and humane?
From boasting or disparaging I kindly refrain.

Newman Weeks was a respected merchant, insurance and real estate agent and ticket agent for the Grand Trunk Railroad. A Rutland Historical Society Quarterly, *"The Fanatics in Grand Conclave": The Rutland, Vermont, Free of Reform Convention of 1858*, indicates that he was the convention's secretary and in company with John Landon, was a local organizer of the event. Many of his letters are in the Sprague Collection at the Vermont Historical Society.

JAN 17, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, August, 1901

The venerable Prof. James D. Butler of Madison, Wis., has sent a letter to Edward Lowe Temple expressing his regret that he cannot, on account of his age, visit Rutland during home week. In the course of his letter he says:--

It is with reluctance that I give up the Rutland home week. Few can remember the place so vividly as I do and that in 1820 or earlier. The first blast in the quarry which underlaid the church just south of your ancestral home I saw and heard, holding my father's hand as we stood at the southwest corner of the church lot. The study of Dr. Ball, his glass-doored bookcases, walks with a foot-stone to the north church in the graveyard, countless trifles of early observations have relived for me at the antipodes. Tidings that "King George is dead" strangely stuck in my memory; so did my own fifth birthday in 1820, with many details. So too my first day in school, in a "brick shop" just north of my birth house.

It is seven years since my eyes last looked upon those home scenes. I there met Evelyn Pierpoint in Evergreen cemetery attending to the making of his own monument. I dined with him and neither of us could remember any other schoolmates who had studied with us in the school house next south of Maj. Fay's house. Every house between Graves' brook and Moon's brook is distinct in my mind's eye and each in its order owing to an odd habit I early formed and have not yet given up,--running them over was my lullaby,--or a trick when sleepless for beguiling myself to repose. Nor has it lost its power even at this day, when the ancient dwellers rise before me each in his name and habit as he lived.****

Middlebury, Burlington, Norwich and Wells River have all been my homes and all are rich in associations. Some of my oldest and dearest friends dwell in Woodstock; yet nowhere do my thoughts run back so fondly as to my mother town; and nowhere else would a home week so gladden me. My birth house I think was the first brick building of two stories erected in the village. It was occupied before June 14, 1800. With hopes no less than memories, very respectfully,
JAMES D. BUTLER

The Rutland Historical Society published a Quarterly, *The Early Homes of Rutland* [Vol XIV No. 3 & 4] in 1984, based on information from James Davie Butler. Professor Butler had written down the location of these homes and businesses in two notebooks of miscellaneous historical notes. A copy of this manuscript, which he entitled *Rutlandia*, was obtained from the Wisconsin State Historical Society in Madison by Dawn Hance, who edited the 1984 Quarterly.

Tidbits From Then and Now

I'm sure many grandmothers today babysit their grandchildren at some point, whether it's while the parents work, while they go on a vacation or even for a partial day so that one or both parents can do the shopping or some other event that needs to get done without the aid of the children.

I have recently had that experience with a granddaughter, 2 1/2 years old, whose parents took a well deserved vacation for four days. I couldn't help but compare how it used to be when my children were growing up. Of course the toys were different, except for the always favorite trucks and dolls. The games that we played were usually invented by someone's imagination. We had television, but it was not a full day of stations aimed at entertaining (educating) children. Remember going to the neighbor's house for coffee while the smaller children played and the older ones were usually in school? What did they play? Hide and Seek; Climb the rocks; Find some pretty stones. Or in the winter, build a castle in the snow; slide on the roll up sled on the hill in the back yard; build a snowman. Then the older ones would make a "pond" in the yard so that they could skate. It was a time for testing snowshoes in the yard. Building a bird feeder with suet and birdseed.

Did you think all that had gone? I have found it again--for the most part. On Tuesday I participated in a play group where the mother's could sit and enjoy coffee and the children could play with a room full of toys or in another room could roll around on mats to create their own exercises. These of course are little ones. Older ones were discussed concerning dancing lessons, skiing lessons or just skiing for fun. There are all day TV programs devoted to the little ones and then in the afternoon the older ones can be found viewing some of their favorites.

Board Games--these were played endlessly. Monopoly, Shoots and Ladders; Checkers; Chinese Checkers; Trouble; [one neighborhood child received a Trouble game three Christmases in a row. His Aunt thought it was such a fun game she kept giving it to him!]. And don't forget the card games, especially Cribbage; War, Hearts and Concentration.. Of course when school sports start and the child is interested, there goes the family board games. I did not hear anyone speaking about board games. Everyone is so busy now with outside activities that there is little time left to sit down and play.

On Wednesday, I became involved with Story Time at the library. They are read stories--ours was about birds and mainly how in the winter they look for food. After reading some stories, the parents/grandparent helped the children make bird feeders out of pine cones, Crisco and birdseed--Oh memories of the past--we used suet!

Needless to say, I've had a wonderful time finding out how today's mothers deal with their child getting involved with other children. Of course we didn't have Nursery School, but we did have Headstart [which had just began in my children's time. The program was intended to teach children the things they should know before starting Kindergarten--brushing teeth, washing hands and keeping clean as well as a taste of some of the cultural adventures they would be facing]. I even had a "dropout" from Headstart--He was too fussy about the kind of ice cream he liked-- they figured he just knew too much about the good things in life!

I don't think people should be too worried about the little ones today. With the kind of programs available and the ability to get the youngsters involved in these programs they should be fine. From generation to generation there has always been a comparison as to how to raise a child. Remember the unmarried/childless person who always knew the "right way" to raise a child? My feeling is that if we succeeded in our generation in raising good, upright persons with our methods, just remember that your mothers raised you by their methods, which for the times fit the bill.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Times February 13, 1873

"History is about the driest study that school teachers and committees have devised wherewith to torment the rising generation. But it was some consolation to have some pleasant romance to occur now and then which lent a variety to the study. If we wanted to learn about patriotism we could turn to the story of William Tell, and admire his skill as a marksman and his noble character. If we wanted to improve morals, we could read the story of George Washington and his little hatchet. If we wanted a splendid romance, all the better for being matter of fact, we could read about John Smith and Pocahontas. But alas! the antiquarians have cruelly deprived us of this pleasure. They have unmercifully proved or pretended to prove, that the cherry tree which Washington hacked, never grew; that his father did not burst into tears over his son's refusal to tell a lie. They have scoured heaven and earth to overturn the story of William Tell, and as they pretend to have discovered that nearly every ancient nation of Europe had some such legend, they assume that the story of William Tell is a fabrication. Supposing that this was not true, that all these stories are nothing but old legends, what on earth is the harm in them? We should like to know what harm it did to feel ourselves moved to higher, nobler things by the story of William Tell. But, all romance must go before these merciless antiquarians."

This was 1873. But doesn't it sound familiar? How many times do we find some "authority" stating that some fact that we have learned is really not true, just a tale! Think of how many family stories would be lost if no one believed such a thing could have happened.

Even today some astronomers are trying to do away with Pluto as a planet. If you remember that no one believed Galileo when he discovered so much about the outer world. Is all Indian lore just fables? This is the way that tradition and tribal customs were passed down. There was no one to write these things, only memory to rely on. Remember your history and how the minstrels would go from town to town and sing about the goings on? Well, are we now to believe people with some theories, who weren't even there, and who assume that things that they sang about couldn't have happened? How much of what we considered science fiction has come true?

Think of Robin Hood; George Washington; William Tell and all the other wonderful "fantasies" that came down through the years. Here we are in 2001 and the people in 1873 were having the same problems of keeping history in perspective. Every day becomes history as night passes us to the next day. All because we are living history!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Did you ever wonder what the meaning of St Valentine's Day really is? I did a little research in the dictionary and the Book of Knowledge.

According to the Book of Knowledge, "The fourteenth of February is called St. Valentine's Day. On this day many people send valentines--loving messages or gifts--to those for whom they care. The day got its name as a feast day or name day of several of the early Christian martyrs who were named Valentine. The sending of valentines has nothing to do with these martyrs, however, and no one knows just where this custom began."

On another page, "Valentine's Day, February 14, may trace its origin all the way back to an ancient Roman festival. The pretty valentines that you send (taking care, if you follow tradition, not to sign your name and to disguise your handwriting) have their origin in the gifts that sweethearts used to exchange in ancient times.

According to Webster's Dictionary: "Valentine's Day, February 14, observed in honor of a martyr of the third century. The customary sending of valentines, candy, etc., to sweethearts on this day is not connected to the saint."

Well now, look up the word valentine in the dictionary and it comes from *valens* (to be strong). Maybe it's possible that strong feelings for someone brought about the offerings of gifts etc. to show how much they cared.

This 1907 post card is a good example of a Valentine's Day "tender moment"

May all of you have many tender moments and a Happy Valentine's Day.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Times, February 20, 1873

"It's to be hoped that the terrible revelations which have recently been made of bribery in the politics of this country will have a beneficial effect in purifying our politics. Alas! we boast of the rapid progress which the United States has made to wealth and prosperity, but we do not think of the terrible progress made toward rascality, not only in politics, but every-where. What would the men of 100 years ago have thought if they had foreseen the state of American politics at the present time? What would Washington and Jefferson and Madison and Adams and the hosts of other patriotic men who led us safely through the Revolution, what would have been their feelings? George Washington fought for his country seven long years, and by his heroism and genius brought us safely through the Revolution; and he refused to take a cent for his services. Who, think you, among our public men would do it now?"

Almost 130 years ago politics was getting a bad name [and we thought it was just the more recent years!] What were the terrible revelations of that time? Did they have a purifying effect on politics? Then again, does history really repeat itself, but in different occurrences?

Alas! We boast of progress and prosperity-----maybe even today we need to slow down and make sure all Americans can get some beneficial effects by "purifying" politics!

A little added humor from the Rutland Times: "Are blacksmiths who make a living by forging, or carpenters who do a little counter-fitting any worse than the men who sell iron and steel for a living?"

The Rutland Times was an amateur weekly published first in 1872. Publishers were Frank McLean & Aiken, the former leader becoming a job printer in Rutland. Subscription rates were 50 cents per year or 2 cents per copy. The paper contained eight pages and was 5 1/2" X 8 1/2 " in size.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Times, February 27, 1873

"We understand that arrangements have been completed for a new daily here. It will occupy the basement and first and second floors of Cramton's new block, just north of Baxter's new Bank building [now the Service Building]. The south store will be a bookstore, also will sell twine and paper bags. The north store will be used for the business office for the daily. The composing rooms, editor's room and book bindery will be on the second floor. The new company will issue a daily and a weekly, and it will be called 'The Globe'." [The Globe was not published until May of 1873.]

"Every now and then we have complaints that Rutland is not such an enterprising town as she might be. And it is true that a little more enterprise in some direction, such as for instance, having a market day and placing the West Street cemetery in good order, might be a little creditable to this town. Rutland is the only town in the state which has two dailies (The Herald and The Globe)."

March 6 1973

"The Independent [another newspaper in Rutland at the time which apparently went out of business shortly after the Globe started printing] has moved into the Globe Building. The Rutland Times has moved up one flight of stairs. Those who have business with us will please enter the old Independent office, ascend the pair of stairs and push up the trap-door at the head." [Sounds like the Rutland Times was being moved "up and out" of business also!]

"Times Humor": A fashionable young lady dropped one of her false eyebrows in a church pew, badly frightening a young man next to her, who thought it was his mustache.

Tidbits From Then and Now
Rutland Herald May, 1903

Mr. Woodfin's Haircut

Mr. John N. Woodfin, president of the Lincoln Iron Works of Rutland, VT, has had his hair cut, and the job was very well done, too. The incident has caused feverish excitement in Rutland, although it is a pretty lively town for Vermont. Mr. Woodfin is not one of those freaks who allow their hair to grow until some party elects a President of the United States. He likes to be well-groomed, spruce and comfortable. Rutland is discussing Mr. Woodfin's haircut because he has been boycotted by the labor unions, and not a barber in town will admit that he clipped Mr. Woodfin's luxuriant head of hair. The barbers are organized to a man, and the puzzle is to find the traitor. Mr. Woodfin could not have used the scissors on himself, and the suspicion that Mrs. Woodfin turned barber is negated by the symmetry of her husband's crown, which looks like a cottage lawn with a three day's growth of tender grass neatly trimmed by a ball-bearing mower.

John N. Woodfin has been marooned by sympathetic strikes until he exists by stealth and fears to die, knowing that he could not have a decent funeral and would put his friends to the trouble of walking to the cemetery. Even Death would find Woodfin a nuisance. The trouble began a year ago with a strike in the iron works. Union workmen in Rutland were "requested" to make life as unpleasant as possible to Mr. Woodfin, his family and the domestic animals that called him master. If a horse cast a shoe the blacksmiths would not make him another. If the watchdog wanted a new Noah's ark, the carpenters to a man refused to take his measure. The very chickens were threatened with a famine by the refusal of union teamsters to deliver a bushel of corn at the Woodfin residence. When the horses wanted shoes Mrs. Woodfin drove them out of town on a hunt for the village blacksmith that Longfellow sang of: "Each morning sees some task begun, Each evening sees it close--Something attempted, something done, Has earned a night's repose." It was while the devoted Mrs. Woodfin was getting the horses fitted one afternoon that the boycotted villain, her husband, appeared on the street with a spring haircut. Some three weeks before he had been obliged to go as far as Bellow's Falls, fifty-seven miles south, to get rid of his superfluous hair, spending \$2.28 on a return ticket, fifty cents for lunch and twenty cents for tips. A suspected barber has happily proved an alibi and the union is on a still hunt for a retired haircutter who may have cut Mr. Woodfin's hair in an abandoned farmhouse on the road to Killington Peak. If the man is identified he will share Mr. Woodfin's boycott. The ironworkers charge the barbers with disloyalty and they are busily preparing alibis. With an ironclad organization of all industries Mr. Woodfin could not escape submission. If the butchers, grocers, bakers, milkmen and other dealers in food products could be combined against him, he would have to come to terms or starve to death, and his family and domestic beasts with him.

[And some people think they have it rough today!!]

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Courier, December 18, 1863

Editing a Paper

“Editing a paper is a very pleasant business. If a paper contains too much political matter, people won’t have it. If it contains too little they won’t have it.

If the type is large it don’t contain enough reading matter. If the type is small they can’t read it.

If we publish telegraph reports, folks say they are nothing but lies. If we omit them they say we have no enterprise, or suppress them for political effect.

If we have in a few jokes, folks say we are nothing but a rattlehead. If we omit jokes, they say we are an old fossil.

If we publish original matter, they blame us for not giving selections. If we publish selections, folks say we are lazy for not writing more, and giving what they have read in some other paper.

If we give complimentary notices we are censured for being partial. If we do not, all hands say we are a greedy hog.

If we attend church they say it is only for effect. If we do not, they denounce us as deceitful and desperately wicked.

If we remain in the office and attend to business, folks say we are too proud to mingle with our fellows. If we go out they say we never attend to business.

If we do not pay all bills promptly, folks say we are not to be trusted. If we do pay promptly, they say we stole the money.”

Sounds like an editor who had enough, or was getting paranoid about his position as editor!

With a few changes in some of the expressions, it seems that similar comments can be heard today when people discuss daily editorials or the dealings of editors of other local media. Of course with TV news now being offered a great many more observations are made, but it doesn’t necessarily “fall” on the head of the editor of a paper. I guess some things never change!

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Courier, November 27, 1863

"The following petition was handed to the Selectmen of Rutland on Thursday; but in justice to the gentlemen that compose that board, we must say that they are not to blame for the unnavigable condition of Merchants' Row. The Selectmen in behalf of the town are ready and willing to do their part but the village Trustees in behalf of the village corporation refuse to do anything. This being the *situation* of things, the selectmen cannot in justice be held responsible for the situation of our principal business street."

"We the undersigned residents of Rutland and doing business on Merchants' Row, being unable to travel on said street with carriages on account of deep water, and as we consider it dangerous navigating the same with boats in its present condition--Therefore we respectfully petition your honorable body to put said street in such a condition that it can be safely navigated from West Street to the Depot grounds, or so that it may be crossed without endangering the lives of individuals and teams. Rutland, Nov. 25, 1863."

Following is a list of merchants that signed the petition and whose businesses were on Merchants' Row: Clark & Brothers; Weeks & Cheney; P.H. Hutchinson; Billings & Buffum; H.A. Sawyer & Co.; Caleb Buffum; Ross & Jones; Cephas E. Stone; Lewis & Fox; L. Valiquette; S. French; C. Kingsley; Jas. O. Merrill; Geo. Graves & Son; John Cain; John Prout; J.J. Garrett; F.X. Massy; A.S. Mathers; Mason & Marshall; Sadler & Sweet; L.T. Lawton; L.D. Cole; W.B. Mussey; B.M. Bailey; Goodnow & Vance; Paine & Co., D. Verder; Landon & Bates; Slocum & Hayward; French & Kingsley; G.O. Darling; Cramton & Co.; B.H. Burt; Chase & Parker and E.W. Gibb.

April 8, 1864

"Merchants' Row is the most beautiful street in Rutland. It is as soft as a feather bed. Elevated on both sides, depressed in the middle and without any bottom to it. It is a good street to get into and once in, there is no danger of getting out. The Village Trustees of Rutland are entitled to much credit and praise for the interest they have so nobly manifested in this great business thoroughfare. If any of them cannot swim mud-turtle style they had better keep away from Merchants' Row."

April 15, 1864

"Tunneling Merchants' Row.--It is reported about town that our friend J.J. Randall, Esq., has been requested to furnish the village trustees with plans for an underground tunnel through Merchants' Row; with subterraneous passages connected therewith from the several places of business. Mr. Randall is a good architect, and for ought we know, may be an excellent civil engineer--but as the travelled portion of Merchants' Row is already so much underground as to be "*stuck in the mud*," we are much mistaken if Mr. Randall does not report against tunneling."

May 13, 1864

“We have over and over again asserted, that it was the duty of the Village Trustees to make dry land where the waters cover the face of the earth on Merchants’ Row, and for the benefit of those who assert to the contrary, we give below sections 4 and 7 of the Act of Incorporation of our village. At the same time, we are again authorized by the selectmen to say, that they are ready and willing, in behalf of the town, to meet the trustees and do their part in the necessary repairs to this street. If something is not done before next September, the County Court Grand Jury will probably attend to the matter in such a manner, that repairs will be made at the expense of the village.”

Numbers 4 and 7 of the Act of Incorporation of the village were included in this news note. They basically place the responsibility for the repair of Merchants’ Row on the Village Trustees, but are too lengthy to include in this “flashback”. We thought we had trouble this February with just frost heaves on the city streets. Pity the poor merchants during the time of unpaved streets! GOOD OLD MUD SEASON!!

MAR 21, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Times, January 30, 1873

"There was a Teachers' Institute here, Thursday and Friday. There was a very large attendance. Meetings were held in the Town Hall and the Baptist Church. The Institute was addressed by Mr. G.A. Mietzke, Miss M. A. Burnham, Dr. Judah Dana of Rutland, J.A. French, Professor Cilley of Brandon and many others.

We understand that Mr. G.A. Mietzke, of this town, is trying to raise \$2,000 for a grand concert to be held here under his direction sometime in the Spring. Single tickets \$3.00, and double tickets \$5.00. He has raised \$800 and thinks he will succeed in raising the whole amount. Mrs. Jeney VanSant, and Mme. DeRyther are to be the soloists, and Carl Zurand is to lead the chorus."

In 1871 Mr. Mietzke was the Director of Music in the Rutland schools. It was at that time that a highly regarded performance by the students took place. According to an article in the Rutland Globe on May 2, 1874, Mr. Mietzke accepted an offer to take charge of the musical department at Castleton Seminary.

In the following years Mr. Mietzke was responsible for an annual series of concerts entitled Mietzke's Subscription Concerts. These brought talented area artists, occasionally including his wife, Mary L. Mead, sister of John A. Mead, as well as nationally noted performers, to Rutland. His many compositions were very highly regarded. Among his prolific works was "Rutland Two-Step". Many of his works were dedicated to local "backers". These festivals of music continued for several years before fading from the Rutland scene. It was noted in the news reports that in their day, these performances were remarkable as there was nothing like them anywhere else in Vermont.

NOTE: For those concerned about the weather, there was a report in the Rutland Globe, May 2, 1874: "The late snows make the old folks recall the "cold year" of 1812, when snow fell in every month of the year; and the great snowfall on the 12th of May, some 40 years ago." [Don't give up hope, Spring is coming!]

Tidbits From Then and Now

A new exhibit called "Eight Generations of Rutland's History" has been installed at the Rutland Historical Society building on Center Street. A companion brochure traces the outlines of Rutland's history as it identifies some of the key persons and events in Rutland's past generations whose images appear in the exhibit. The generations have been assigned a title representative of the era and the appropriate dates have been assigned. The eight generations are:

- (1) 18th Century Rutland (1770-1800)
- (2) The Quiet Years (1801-1830)
- (3) Marble and Railroads (1831-1860)
- (4) Civil War and Industry (1861-1892)
- (5) Urbanization (1893-1920)
- (6) 20s, Depression and WWII (1921-1950)
- (7) Post-war and Post-railroad Rutland (1951-1980)
- (8) Rutland Revitalized (1981-2010)

Webster's Dictionary defines a generation as approximately 30 years. In the history of Rutland this works very well to approximate the eras of the generations and the changes that accompanied each.

National Guardsmen leaving from Rutland Railroad Station (1940).

This exhibit has already had many visitors who were informed about it through their Society Newsletters. It has also been visited by a Cub Scout group that asked questions about Rutland's past and were pleased to be able to find the location of some of the pictured scenes. This is a really "don't miss" exhibit for those who like to "bring the past to life". The Society is open on Monday evening 6-9 PM and Saturday afternoon from 1-4 PM. Arrangements can be made for groups to visit at other times by calling 775-2006.

TIDBITS: June 14, 1930 Sued for Shooting Operatic Tomcat. A dentist who shot a tomcat that disturbed his slumber with nocturnal arias on the back fence has been made defendant in a \$5,000 damage suit brought by the pet's owner. The cat was nursed back to health by the owner, but the suit was brought because she was denied his affectionate manner toward her. Accompanying the damage suit was a petition for a restraining order to prevent the dentist from further molesting "Jerry". On the same date a judge ordered a father to spank his son once a day for a week because the child had stolen a watch.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Covered bridges are a very popular subject, whether you just like to view pictures of them, travel around the country to see the remaining testimonials of the past or just do research to find out all about the building of them.

Johnnie Francis called me a few weeks back to inform me that Evelyn Pierpoint had built the Dorr Bridge, not Nicholas Powers, who is credited with building many of the covered bridges that existed along Otter Creek. To verify this information I began to research Evelyn Pierpoint and thought you might enjoy what I came up with.

Evelyn Pierpoint was born in Rutland to Robert and Abigail Pierpoint on June 10, 1816. At the age of 12 he was employed as a clerk in the Rutland postoffice and then a clerk in a general merchandise store owned by James Barrett (who later became his father-in-law). In later years, Evelyn Pierpoint built the first steam sawmill in Mendon, which was also the first one in Vermont. It was at this time he that became interested in the lumber and bridge-building business.

Mr. Pierpoint's family owned a great deal of land in Rutland and he and his sister Julia deeded four acres of land for one dollar (located on a knoll northwest of the House of Correction [now the Marble Valley Correctional Facility] on Spring Street [now State Street] as a site for a new hospital. Officials couldn't raise enough money to build in that location and the land was returned to them after Charles Sheldon, who was moving from Rutland, offered his relatively new house at 46 Nichols Street for the hospital. Mr. Pierpoint also sold the "Ledge" property on Mechanic [now Convent Avenue] and Meadow Streets to Father Boylan who built a school and St. Peter's Church there.

Back to the covered bridges. It is noted in the Town Report of 1870 that there was a court order to build a bridge from South Street across the Creek to The Honorable S.M. Dorr's residence. Town Report of 1871 states that Mr. Evelyn Pierpoint, Esq., was contracted to build a lattice bridge two hundred feet long and twenty-two feet wide, the abutments and piers and construct the road from the eastern end of the bridge to the western terminus of River Street for the sum of \$5,500.

The Town Report of 1872 states the bridge had been completed but one of the piers was built on a quicksand foundation and it was deemed unsafe. An additional \$800 was allotted to have the pier replaced and rebuilt in a more substantial manner upon piles driven over twenty feet into the river bed. The Town Report of 1873 states that the contract with Mr. Pierpoint to replace the pier and the confinement of the river by placing a large quantity of cobble stone or boulders along the river bank had not yet been completed and the selectmen were withholding \$850 until this was done. By the 1874 Town Report Mr. Pierpoint had completed the work and been paid and the selectmen felt that the bridge was the best one in the town.

The Rutland Historical Society wants to thank Johnnie Francis for bringing this bit of information to their attention. As with all research, it takes time and patience to get it right but

the end results can be very rewarding and informative. To the covered bridge enthusiasts, make note of Mr. Pierpoint. He passed away on July 12, 1896 at the age of eighty years, leaving behind him the memory of an honest and enterprising business man, a loyal and public-spirited citizen and a benevolent and kind-hearted man.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Today the sun is actually shining and the tulips are coming up in my front yard, trying to ignore the snow that sits about two feet in front of them. It suddenly struck me that April 1st was the time that my former neighbors started planting the peas in their garden. Wouldn't they be surprised to find most gardens under the two feet of snow that today's sun is working on. The time for plowing gardens is coming. Little hand plows to large garden tractors will be needed. This thought leads me to wonder how many Rutland residents are aware that John Deere was born in Rutland? Well, let me fill you in.

John Deere was born in Rutland, Vermont, February 7, 1804, the fourth child and third son of William Rinold Deere and Sarah (Yates) Deere. His father moved to Middlebury in 1805 and died when John was eight years old. His mother carried on his father's merchant tailor business for fourteen years after her husband's death. At age 17, John became a blacksmith's apprentice, binding himself for four years, receiving his board and yearly wages. He stayed with his master two years as a journeyman and then went to Burlington, where he hammered out, by hand, all the iron work for a saw mill and oil mill at Colchester, which won him a great reputation.

At the age of 23, John married Damaris Lamb at Granville, Vermont. He established blacksmith shops in Leicester Four Corners twice, and lost them both by fire. Whenever large jobs in his trade were to be done, John was in demand. He worked in Royalton repairing stagecoaches for a few months and then went back to the blacksmith business in Hancock, near his in-laws' home.

In November of 1836, John left Vermont and settled at Grand Detour, Illinois. He quarried stone and with clay for mortar, built his forge and began work upon a broken-down saw mill, which he had running in two days. The repairing of plows was a large part of his work and he began studying how to improve the plow. He made his first experimental plow in 1837. By 1848 his plows had steel plates, made to his specifications in England.

John had built a house and brought his family, wife and five children, to Illinois two years after settling there. By 1847 the family had moved to Moline, where transportation of his raw materials and products were better accommodated and by 1857 he had made 10,000 plows.

John Deere was mayor of Moline for two terms, director of the bank and its president several years and was an active member of the Congregational Church. His wife died in 1865, survived by four married daughters and one married son. John remarried, again in Granville, Vermont, the younger sister of his first wife. He died at Moline, Illinois on Monday, May 17, 1886. The company continued as a family business through the years until 1974 when the John Deere Company was a full conglomerate of big business and no longer family owned.

Where John Deere was born in Rutland is unknown (most likely at home as was the custom). But the plows that he initially improved remain a big factor in today's world, even being used for plowing SNOW! Welcome Spring and may your beautiful sun melt the mounds of snow from our gardens!

APRIL 18, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

Heavy Snowfall Indicates Winter Still Holding On in Vermont

“Old Man Winter spoke out of turn again yesterday.

Heavy damp snow--seven and a half inches of it--which carpeted city streets and walks in the third heaviest April storm of local weather bureau history met with frank and widespread disapproval. Weary citizens felt it was about time for winter to bow out gracefully.

Ground warmed by a spring sun put up a good battle against the snow which measured a shade more than the total fall during March, but it lasted all day, clinging like cotton to trees and bushes. Little damage was reported although a few wires were brought down by the heavy load.

Schoolchildren showed their disapproval yesterday by playing ball and roller skating where they could but most householders, unable to ignore it, patiently brought out the snowshovel from retirement, and went to work.

Weather officials pointed out that some snow is not out of the ordinary during April. The heaviest recorded snowfall for the month occurred on April 20, 1925, when nine inches were recorded. The most unseasonable April was during 1939 when there were seven snow storms. There have been only three Aprils when no snow fell, the weather bureau reports--in 1921, 1934 and 1941. Three light falls is about normal for the month, officials say.

But it was a boon to sugar makers who reported likelihood of an increased run from the cold snow and moistened ground.”

Rutland Railroad Station

April 2001? No, April 14, 1943! Because of the “surprise” snow accumulation on April 3, 2001, some pictures were brought to the Rutland Historical Society that were taken after the 1943 storm. In New Hampshire, my mother took a picture of me sitting in the snow, apparently the same date, so that my older brother who was away in the Marines could see the depth of the snow. We later received a letter from him and his concern was not the depth of the snow, but, “How come she’s wearing my scarf?”.

As I write this, the sun is shining--the temperature is on the rise and “spring cleaning” is the notion running through my mind. Just think, our “snow bird” friends will be coming home from Florida!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Have you had your dog registered? I don't have a dog--enough children to raise--but, I understand that all dogs had to have their shots and be licensed by April 1st. Thought you might enjoy the following article from the Rutland Herald dated April 5, 1944.

Ching, Chang And Stinky All Get Licenses

"A chow named Ching, another named Chang, a mongrel with the dignified cognomen of Samuel Fletcher, and another with the unflattering name of Stinky are among the 900 canines which have been licensed in the office of Henry P. Battles, city clerk.

The tiniest dog is a Mexican Chihuahua named Conchita, and the second smallest, a Yorkshire terrier named Jicki. A dog formerly owned by a well known Rutland resident, who died during the past year, bears the name of Wallis Warfield, and other are named Cincinnatus Pennallister, Alhambra Ordinus, Mainheart Army and Cave Canem.

Among the "lady" dogs, of which 50 are registered, are Mary Margaret, Flicka, Poochie, Judy, Mitzie, Bettie, Peggy, Jane.

Then there are Carmichael, Dan, Tommy, Bing, Jiggs, Nanki-Poo, Toto, Penny, Dollar, Red Jacket, in addition to scores named Spot, Buster, Sammy, Laddie, Boy, Rover, Gyp and other names familiar among the canine inhabitants of the city.

The oldest dog registered is 14 years old. The law requires that dogs over four months in age be registered."

During a school play, we needed a dog and acquired one from the local Humane Society. After the play he was to be returned, but we knew what his fate would be so we convinced one of my friends to take him home. He was quite a character and would run after the car and hop in the window if you stopped. He was a bit opposed to his position in the home--there was also a very well-behaved collie living there. He ended up with the name "Piddles" for obvious reasons, but he did manage to outgrow some bad habits and became a beloved "member of the family".

Tidbits From Then and Now

There are many of us who remember that a lot of things were rationed during World War II. I wonder how many of today's young people know just what rationing is or would be like. The following article --which was apparently standard information on a weekly basis--was found in the Rutland Herald of April 5, 1943.

Rationing Timetable

Rationing information for the week beginning today, based upon the latest available information, is as follows:

Meats, butter, other fats, salad oils, canned fish, cheese: RED stamps lettered A and B now valid and continue valid throughout April. RED stamps lettered C may NOT be used before April 11. Loose 1-point red stamps received in change are valid at any time; NO OTHER loose stamps are to be accepted.

Farmers selling butter are required to register with local OPA ration boards; those selling meats must have permits from county USDA war boards; in each case, they must collect RED point stamps from their customers.

Canned foods: BLUE stamps lettered D, E and F now valid and continue good throughout April. Coffee: Stamp No. 26 valid for one pound through April 25. Sugar: Stamp No. 12 valid for five pounds through May 31. Shoes: Stamp No. 17 valid through June 15 for one pair. Gasoline: A-5 coupons now valid for three gallons each; must last through July 21. Fuel oil: Period 4 coupons valid through April 17; period 5 coupons also valid now and should last through September 30.

Although I knew we needed coupons for many things, I did not know shoes were included. I can remember the sole of my shoe "flapping" with an elastic around it to keep it on. I also remember taking my mother's iron frying pans to school for the "scrap iron" drive to help with the war effort. I bought savings stamps at school each week --10 cents a stamp--to fill a book so that I could get a War Bond. And yes, our car was "on blocks" because gas was so precious.

Pictured are a couple mementos that now appear to be more significant than I had realized in my youth.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The gasoline prices during the past few months have been going up and down. Drivers have to be on their toes to get a bargain. This situation is not new and has been going on since the invention of cars. Consider the following article from the Rutland Herald of April 2, 1929:

Gasoline Prices Jump As One-Cent Increase In Tax Is Slapped On.

Yesterday the one-cent increase in the state gasoline tax went into effect throughout Vermont. Simultaneous with the jump from three to four cents in the assessment, filling stations and garages here jumped the price of the fuel one cent.

Car owners buying gasoline in Rutland yesterday were accordingly forced to pay 21 cents instead of 20 cents for the standard product and 24 cents instead of 23 cents for high-test fuel. Another change in the state motor vehicle laws made by the last Legislature that is now in effect is the one doing away with the clause that makes 30 miles an hour prime facia evidence of careless driving. The new law reads: "--shall not drive so as to endanger lives and property." This does not mean, however, that a person can travel more than 30 miles an hour under all circumstances. It simply means that the speed shall be determined by existing conditions.

Then this story from April 25, 1929:

Point of This Story is---They Don't Deal in Gasoline

When is a filling station not a filling station? The answer is: When it happens to be a dining car.

Perhaps gasoline may be served a la carte over the lunch counter at "Mac's Filling Station" but the odds are highly against it. And the only kind of oil available at the Cottage and West Street diner is salad oil. Water is served, of course, free of charge, and it is possible that "grease" is used on frying pans and in the doughnut-making process. However, "Mac's Filling Station" is meant for human filling and not for automobile serving.

In spite of all that, the lunch cart is listed in the new Rutland district telephone directory's business section under "gasoline Filling Stations." The error is the only one discovered in the greatly enlarged phone book.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Before refrigerators came into being ice chests kept foods "cool". The block of ice was placed in the top of the chest and there was a pipe leading to a drip pan underneath the whole cabinet. The food was stored underneath the chest of ice in what would resemble the shelves of today's refrigerator. There probably aren't too many citizens still around who remember running out when the ice cart brought that big block of ice to put in the ice box. But it was fun to get the chips that fell from the larger block while the iceman chopped it down to the size that was desired. Sometimes he would even let you give the horse/horses a treat (if you could afford to do so!) Progress and electricity brought about an "easier" way to preserve food but another common, everyday event was lost.

The following humorous story appeared in the Rutland Weekly Herald on July 27, 1869.

An Exciting Race--Yesterday afternoon, the ice cart of Mr. Dunklee was standing near the corner of Merchants Row and Center Street when the horses became frightened at a passing locomotive and started on a full run up Center Street. Mr. E.L. Stearns was driving leisurely along Center Street when he heard the rattle behind him, just as the team was almost upon him, he put the whip to his horse to keep out of the way, but Mr. Dunklees horses kept close up, allowing no opportunity for Mr. Stearns to turn out, and let them pass without a collision. So on up the hill they went, Mr. Stearns just succeeding in keeping ahead of them until they arrived opposite the residence of Mr. Charles Sheldon, [present home of the Moose Club] where the hill and their load of ice was too much for them and they were easily captured. Mr. Stearns finally won the race at the rate of 2:45. For once ice was seen along our streets in mid-summer. Ice for a little time was decidedly on the fall.

Can you just imagine it--I suppose that today it would be like being tailgated by some motorist who was trying to pass when he shouldn't and in today's terms could be called "road rage"!

Tidbits From Then and Now

With Memorial Day just around the corner, thoughts tend to lean toward the decoration of graves of loved ones. Over the years the celebration of such a day has changed. Originally known as Decoration Day, we declared our loyalty to remembering those who had gone before us and who toiled and fought for a better living situation for the generations to come.

In today's world Memorial Day is a time for remembering the past generations of loved ones and also of celebrating that time as a possible beginning of summer and to welcome warm days. I believe that Vermont is the only state that still maintains May 30th as the official Memorial Day. Other states have changed to make a "long weekend" of the closest weekend to that date.

The following appeared in the Rutland Herald on July 29, 1869 and could have been written today:

Burial Places.--Too little attention is paid to our rural cemeteries, where lie the remains of the loved ones, perhaps of a century. The authorities and the people allow them to be covered with grass and bushes, which mar the sacredness of the place and encumber the path of those who go to visit the tombs of their friends, until they are scarcely able to find the places where they lie. This is all wrong. While we are laying out beautiful grounds, convenient walks and adorning our new cemeteries, the old ones should not be neglected but should be kept as a sacred duty due to a past generation in a tidy and agreeable manner. If friends neglect this duty it is the moral if not the legal duty of the authorities to see that it is done at the public expense. We have been led to these suggestions by contrasting the appearance of the old cemetery on West Street a few weeks since, and that of today. It is now cleared up, the grass mown, and one can walk around its graves without disgust. On inquiry we learned this had been done by Mr. Ira Fisher, and the thanks of the public are due to him for his thoughtful act. These reflections are not alone in connection with the Rutland Cemetery; but a few days since our heart was saddened in visiting the cemetery in the village of our childhood by finding it filled with shrubs and bushes, obstructing our pathway and preventing the reading of inscriptions on the tombstones that marked the last resting place of friends whom we knew and loved in other years. Then too, the many tombstones that once marked the graves of some of its elder as well as younger citizens were broken, and the fragments scattered in all directions. Others were out of place, and almost upon the ground. The permission of such vandalism in this civilized age is not creditable to a people or a town. We should never be forgetful of the dead, and if friends do not perform it, let the citizens or authorities see to it, that their cemeteries do not present a disgusting and unwholesome sight to the eye of the stranger as he visits their silent city of the dead.

State law now states the each town or city is responsible for the care of cemeteries. However, we occasionally see articles about vandalism to the tombstones of various cemeteries, or brush "dumping" areas or party remnants being strewn about. Seems like times really don't change that much! But, there is a rainbow reaching some cemeteries when caring, civic minded citizens discover hidden ones and sacrifice many hours or even years to clean them up so these rural burial places can be remembered. Have a memorable Memorial Day!

Tidbits From Then and Now

With the arrival of spring comes the possibility of grass fires when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate by giving the earth some rain to keep the trees and plants moist. Many times the fire is an accident, sometimes caused by carelessness, sometimes by foolishness. But, however the fire comes alive, there has to be some way to control and extinguish it.

Lately many school children have been given a tour of some of the local firehouses and have seen how big the fire trucks are. Hopefully they were told just how busy it keeps the firemen to take care of all the equipment so that when it is needed it will operate the way it is supposed to. They even have to check the fire hydrants to make sure that all of them are ready when needed. Even back in September of 1869, they had to check to make sure the equipment was ready when needed. They did not have all the wonderful electronic equipment that we know about today. They still had to have everything ready and the following story appeared in the September 16, 1869 newspaper:

Firemen's Annual Inspection

On Saturday last the entire Fire Department of Rutland was out, it being the day for annual inspection. A procession was formed, headed by St. Peter's Band. The several companies marched through the principal streets of the village and assembled at the Rutland Park [the park at the train depot] to work their machines.

First came the Nickwackett No. 1, fresh from her victory at Plattsburg, and was stationed at the hydrant. Soon a stream was shot from the nozzle, but as the speed at the brakes was increased up to the exciting point, the hose burst, and showered those that stood near. Another trial was subsequently made with the same result.

Next came Washington Company. No. 2; but when the speed was raised to the highest pitch, the hose burst--we think three or four times.

Next came the steamer Killington. We took occasion to note the time that elapsed from the setting of the fires till the water was carried by hose to the top of the Central House, a three story building [where the First Vermont Bank now stands].

When the match was touched the Killington and Hose Company were in the street in front of the depot. They immediately started for the hydrant in the Park, and in six minutes there was a pressure of ten pounds of steam. In six minutes and fifty seconds there was fifteen pounds of pressure, and in eight minutes the water was let on, and in twenty-one seconds it was thrown from the nozzle from the top of the Central House. When the speed of the engine was increased to its full capacity, the same misfortune befell it that had happened to the others--the hose burst and formed for a while a beautiful fountain, much more pleasant to look upon at a distance than it was to the crowd who were in close proximity to the break and got drenched with the water from it.

The hand pumper of the Washington Hose Company No. 2. H.L. Litchfield, the Foreman stands on the equipment which was photographed by Rutland photographers, Mowrey & Russell in 1863.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald August 19, 1869

About two years ago, Mr. W.N. Oliver came to this place, and thinking it a place of business, and one that would be congenial to his tastes, determined to make it his permanent home. He cast about to find active business, and ultimately settled upon that of manufacturing marble, wisely concluding that Rutland was the best place in the United States to work marble, for the reasons that, being near the quarries, he could have better opportunities for selecting stock, and that while he would send in the manufactured article only the weight actually wanted, other dealers, shipping the unfinished stock, are obliged to pay freights for the chips and portions to be worked off.

His spacious shops are at the foot of West Street [West of Pine Street], near the railroad, and in them we noticed some rare specimens of workmanship, fully equal to that found in the cities of Boston and New York.

We understand that the fine carvings which we saw was the work of Mr. Charles Teasdale, the foreman in the establishment. Mr. Teasdale is a graduate of the English Academy of Design, and previous to his connection with this establishment, was foreman for Mr. A.T. Stewart, on the marble work of his palatial mansion on Fifth Avenue, New York. We are glad to welcome men of his attainments to our place.

We observed a specimen of Italian marble which was being worked into a beautiful tablet. We suggested to Mr. Oliver that it was not in good taste for a Rutland man to furnish Italian marble. He replied that he had a customer who insisted upon having Italian stone, and making as a point in his business to furnish exactly the material ordered or agreed upon, he could not do otherwise. He agreed with us, however, in the opinion that Vermonters should use only Vermont marble for cemetery work.

From the fact that his business has increased so that he now gives constant employment to fifteen workmen, we infer that the honorable course of furnishing exactly the thing ordered or agreed upon, is being properly appreciated by the community.

Building occupied by Mr. W.N. Oliver in 1869 and purchased from White & Haven in 1882 by Lincoln Iron Works.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Thursday June 7, 1900

George E. Royce and John W. Cramton have an expert at work making estimates on the power recently purchased by them on Furnace Brook at Pittsford Mills. The two waterfalls on the property are only 700 feet apart and by combining their power it is expected that much better results will be obtained than if they were used separately. An electric plant will be built near the falls and the power provided will all be used in Pittsford. Active operations at Furnace Brook will not begin for several weeks.

These two Rutland men also have recently bought the box factory at Pittsford Mills owned by Nicholas Hines of Philadelphia and operated for many years by Weinlie Brothers. They have also bought the site of the old gristmill owned by Asa Burdett, which was burned about a month ago. The water power at these two places are as good as any in Rutland County with the exception of Otter Creek. The purchases were made with the objective of carrying electrical power to the works of the True Blue Marble Company in Pittsford. The company commenced shipping blocks of marble from the quarries at Florence to its West Rutland works about a week ago, and a large number of blocks have already been transported.

Electricity has been a fascination for many since its development. From lights to telephones to phonographs to radio to TV and now computers that can trace anything you want to find. What would we do without electricity? Can you just imagine all the business and life or death situations that would be affected? How would we ever manage! Even at this time the western part of the United States is dealing with some serious reductions in their electrical power. Let's hope that the problems are dealt with before they start coming to the Northeastern part of the country.

Tidbits From Then and Now

June could have been called the month for marriages back many years ago. Today marriages take place when the couple decide the best time for them. Whether it be planned during a work vacation; a summer trip or even a winter trip. Because of modern conveniences any time goes.

Back in 1869 most marriages took place when the weather was convenient for transportation. There were other times selected at the convenience of the couple also. Apparently before 1869 there were no laws governing the marriage intentions. The following article appeared in the Rutland Herald on December 9, 1869.

Marriages Under the New Law

The public perhaps are not fully appraised that it is necessary, under the new law, for parties intending marriage to procure a license from the town clerk before a clergyman can perform the ceremony. The first marriage service under the new law was performed by Rev. Edward Mills, pastor the Baptist Church, on Wednesday, Dec. 1st, uniting Mr. George E. Clark and Mrs. Lizzie A. Donahue. The license in this case was recorded in the town clerk's office as number one.

This was not the first marriage in the State under the new law. The Rev. John G. Hale united a couple at Chester, on Sunday last, the clergyman having read the new law on Saturday. When the parties appeared they were ignorant of the law and had procured no license. Fortunately, however, they were soon relieved from the dilemma, for it appeared that the gentleman at whose house the parties were assembled was town clerk. The clerk supposed he had no form, but remarked that he had received a package from the Secretary of State, which he had not opened, and on examination it was found to be blanks for the document wanted, and one was immediately issued and the clergyman was enabled to proceed with the ceremony.

Perhaps this can give a clue to the difficulty of finding the marriage contracts of our ancestors that we have been searching for. Many recorded their marriages in family Bibles. My family found a license neatly folded behind a tintype photo of great-grandparents. You never know where things can be discovered!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Charles B. Mead, the author, was born on April 5, 1843. He wrote this when he was not quite 17 years of age. He died June 17, 1864 in the Civil War near Petersburg, Virginia.

OUR COUNTRY

Great and vast, are the thoughts which are awakened by the simple mention of those two words.

What heart does not smile with joy, and what pen does not strengthen as by an electric thrill, when we mention our country, and yet how weak, how inadequate are words to express our thoughts on such a subject.

What a beautiful country is ours, mighty rivers sweeping through the land, carrying our commerce; the sublime Niagara the wonder of the World; mountains presenting scenery beautiful beyond description, and whose lofty snowy crests rise far above the fleecy clouds.

If you would seek for authors, divines, statesmen, heroes, philanthropists who are the most worthy, where would you look but in America?

No nation has ever existed, which has possessed such a code of laws, such an unblemished history.

Though we may be absent in other climes, still our hearts will fondly turn to this land of Hail Columbia, Yankee Doodle, and Pop Goes the Weasel.

While other countries may have single arts raised to a nearness of perfection, ours reaches to a high degree of excellence in all.

From the day that the Pilgrim Bark first struck the rock shore of the Bay State to the present time, this land has ever been to the World an example of all that is great, good, and just, and were it not for the "damning shade of slavery's curse," which rests as the only foul blot on the fair page of our country's history, we should be what we justly deserve and shall yet reach, the height of earthly genius.

And yet, our country even now stands a living monument of greatness; an example to the World of what a country should be.

January 5th 1860

Can we still say this? Are we still in 2001, the living mounment of greatness that Charles Mead saw in our country in 1860?

JULY 4, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

American Independence--The end not yet.

America's history is eventful with scenes of efforts for liberty.

It owes its foundation in the effort of the Pilgrim Fathers to throw off the yoke of religious tyranny, and found a colony where conscience could act unfettered.

Years rolled on, and the infant colony planted 'mid a thousand opposing circumstances flourished with an astonishing swiftness. England's ruler, through a false consciousness of his power thought to tax and oppress America--the daughter now grown stronger than the mother spurned the insult to her rights, cast in the dust the galling yoke and became a child of freedom!

Thus far America has conquered tyranny and oppression, but "the end is not yet;" in the South held in slavery's galling chains, owned, worked, recognized, and treated as cattle are found mortals of a different color.

Think you that the spirit of - liberty is dead in the hearts of Afric's sons? That the all potent might which has burst the iron bands of oppression through all the ages of the world, which has hurled down thrones and kings never to rise again, and has changed the destinies of the mightiest empires on the Globe, --think you that that spark is extinguished in the heart of the Black? Far from it, it lies there as strong as it ever did in our forefather's hearts, and were it not made dormant by the oppression of mind and soul, it would kindle and blaze with such a fierce wrath as would drive forever from America's shores all traces of so deep a crime as that of slavery.

We may rest in oblivion, but the growing feeling for Afric's sons, majority and might will ere long wash out this blackest stain that ever blotted the fair pages of our country's history.

Charles B. Mead, October 21, 1860

Charles B. Mead was close to 17 years of age when he wrote this "Declamation". More of his writings are included in a back copy of a Rutland Historical Society Quarterly entitled: *Charles B. Mead A young Man of Rare Promise*. He was killed during the siege of Petersburg, Virginia on June 17, 1864 at age 20.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The following is taken from some notes that were found in some of the materials given to the Historical Society. It was necessary to decipher the writing and turned out to be quite informative regarding a project by the Women's Club in 1909-1910.

"Mrs. President and Members of the Women's Club. During the past month Mrs. Ann C. has visited over thirty markets, grocery stores and creameries with a desire to find out just how these places, where we buy, we find are being kept. In most instances we have found much to concern and in others very little.

"By making a systematic inspection of these places we'd like very much to bring up the standard of all the stores--but in order to do this we must also have the cooperation of the women of this club. If every woman here will take the trouble to notice how the foods which she buys for her family are being kept and will document what she finds comes from a clean place and carefully handled by clerks with clean aprons and clean hands, we shall be able to bring about what we desire. We have found in a few stores, that all crackers, sugar, meal, flour, cheese, salt pork, pickles, butter and bread are kept in covered receptacles. In others very few of these articles were kept covered and some not at all--when they are left uncovered, there is every chance for rats and mice also cats to investigate to say nothing of dust and dirt which must get into these uncovered barrels and boxes.

"In most places we were assured that these things were covered while working--but in one place, a meat market, I myself saw a clerk dumping the (?) with (?) spread on the counter. When I asked if that was a good thing to do, he agreed with me that it was not.

"In a few creameries we found milk can covers on but the majority of creameries leave their cans open. There is no law to regulate this at present, but public opinion. In some meat markets we found an excellent condition of things, everything clean, and clearly handled by men in clean aprons--with coolers in a good condition. One man whose cooler was certain the worst condition, called us in a few days later to see what an improvement he had made. The place fairly smelled of soap suds and was certainly in a condition well worth imitating.

"In every case but two we met with most courteous treatment and an invitation to call again. In one of the two places we were told we could not see the cooler (as Dr. Ball considered it sufficient). We concluded this must be the cause for the refusal. [noted in the listing of stores was the comment "....can't be clean as he did not wish to show it--very disagreeable and insulting"]

"We find in many places a rooted objection to clean aprons every day--the law requires to wear clean aprons every day and to wash all utensils used about meat every day. But it costs five cents for each apron laundered. This must be the reason why they do not have them washed very often and it requires them to have all utensils cleaned daily. We wish very much that we might have a market inspector appointed by the board of health, who could give this work more time. This has been done in other places with great success.

[After listing several stores the notes go on about another interesting subject].

“On Election Day the Junior Civic League of the Public Schools, elected their officers for the coming year. The Junior Civic League pledge themselves to work together to make Rutland the model city in Vermont. They promise not to throw rubbish of any kind into the streets. To do everything possible to keep clean and beautify this city and not to injure or deface property and to observe the city laws.”

[What comes to my mind is the old adage: Behind every good man is a good woman. Maybe it could have been said that: Behind every good law was a good Women's Club!]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Editorial in the Rutland Herald dated July 17, 1946

"Plans for a junior college in Rutland are now well on their way to fulfillment. As a result of Monday night's dinner meeting, attended by 130 educators and representative civic leaders, an organization has been set up and the junior college will be incorporated as a Vermont corporation.

"This encouraging progress was made possible by the interest and cooperation of many individuals and groups, and by the careful planning of the various committees. The groundwork was soundly laid.

"Many problems had to be discussed and met. There was the matter of finding quarters for the proposed institution. This was solved by obtaining the temporary use of the Mead Community House, and by the use of augmented library facilities. Accommodations for 200 students had to be found, and this was done by means of a room survey; housing facilities for teachers, however, are still a problem.

"Another question was, what kind of a college would it be, and what courses should be offered. It was decided to offer two short term courses. One will be a terminal course for those who will not go on in college, and will feature business administration. The other course will consist of arts and sciences.

"There should be little difficulty in obtaining a qualified teaching staff. It is reported that 40 applicants are already on the list, and the minimum salary of \$4000 a year should attract others. This is a higher minimum salary than is paid by many other colleges.

"Student applications have also been received and now that the college is taking more definite shape, applications should increase. With the long waiting lists at so many state institutions of higher learning, and the same condition obtaining at out of state colleges, the 200 enrollment should be quickly achieved.

"But it will take money to launch the junior college, and this must come from public subscription. The estimated cost for the first year is \$40,000, and the goal for a three year period would be \$100,000. This is not a large sum when it is realized how much it would cost if buildings had to be put up, and the college started from scratch. By using available facilities in Rutland, the college will be able to keep its expenses down.

"It is scarcely necessary to point out again the need for the new junior college. In addition to the veterans who want to continue their education, there are the high school graduates. While the GI Bill provides the money for veterans' education, it does not provide the facilities. Rutland is doing its part in that direction by creating its junior college.

“For this is a community undertaking and its success will depend upon the support and contributions of the entire community.

“Monday night’s meeting is evidence that Rutlanders are back of the junior college idea, and that they intend to carry it through to success. But more than local interests are involved, for this new institution will serve not only students in the Rutland area, but others throughout Vermont and, possibly from beyond its borders.”

The temporary use of the Mead Community House that was located at the corner of Center Street and Court Street was a good start. Later the City Recreation Department was located in that same building, before moving to the Dana School Building. The only other college available in the local area at the time was Castleton Teacher’s College. Not everyone wanted their college education to be only for teaching. Although the concept was a good one, the expectations were apparently not fulfilled. By October, 1950 the Sisters of St. Joseph had the highest bid on the bankrupt Rutland Junior College property. Today we know that beautifully expanded property as Saint Joseph’s College.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Traffic problems are not new to the city of Rutland. Lights are always in need of coordination and there were even times when it was necessary to change some of the streets to one-way in order to maintain a good traffic flow.

On Saturday, March 6, 1951, the following article appeared in the Rutland Herald.

POLICE CHIEF BACKS TUNNEL

Traffic congestion at Pine and State Streets and Grove and State Streets, increasing daily as Rutland Manufacturing plants add numbers to their payrolls, can be eliminated by construction of the proposed Cleveland Avenue underpass, Police Chief J. Frederick Carbine declared last night.

In addition to clearing up these particularly knotty traffic problems, construction of an underpass would eliminate hazardous crossing of railroad tracks and heavily traveled highways where there is no police protection at the present time. He was referring to children going to and from school, who now climb the railroad embankment onto the tracks.

Chief Carbine said he definitely was in favor of the question on the ballot for next Tuesday's election which asks residents of Rutland to approve construction of the overpass and also approve a \$60,000 bond issue for the work.

Employment of additional help at some of the manufacturing plants in that particular area and increased riding to work by individuals in their own automobiles has created a serious traffic problem, the chief said, which the underpass would eliminate.

Should the underpass be approved and construction completed, a traffic light would probably be installed at Cleveland Avenue and State Street, the chief said. This, he added, would help cut down the possibility of accidents at that intersection.

The bond issue was defeated by a small margin of voters on the following Tuesday. One can only wonder if it would really have helped to extend Cleveland Avenue to enter West Street on the other side of the tracks. It would have been just after the bridge and probably would have met Meadow Street. Looking at these locations in today's traffic pattern, it seems that it would have become more hazardous. At least the artist's sketch seemed interesting.



Tidbits From Then and Now

How many can remember trying to keep cool on a hot summer day by dipping in water. Cool, clear water! Progress is all around us, even when we want to take a dip to cool off. Start with a dip in the 50's. Remember the swimming hole?

We also had our beloved swimming pool on North Main Street. Enter the doors under the pool and dash through the shower to prepare for a real cool dip. Not many of the present Rutland youngsters realize just where that pool was or how popular it was. Former residents have come to the Historical Society just to get a picture of the pool for their office out of state.

Today Rutland has White's Pool, identified in this photo as "New Pool--1970". Larger, not round anymore, and built to accommodate any aspiring Olympic swimmer. But most just go to swim and enjoy the relief from the heat by dipping in the cool, clear water.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Time just doesn't seem to change, just the method in which things happen. The following story took place in August of 1870:

GYPSIES--A STRANGE TRANSACTION

There has been for some days past an encampment of what may be called "Gypsies" in Rutland, their camping ground having been changed from time to time, if not from day to day.

On Saturday last two of them called at the house of Mrs. Hubbard, a widow lady residing on the corner of Wales and West Streets, with some baskets, which they offered for sale. Upon Mrs. Hubbard's declining to purchase, they entered into conversation with her, and one of them, observing that she had a small bunch on her forehead, proposed to remove it. Mrs. Hubbard informed them that it originated from an injury which she had received some years ago, and that as it had affected the bone, it could not be remedied; whereupon one of the Gypsies made a pretense of examining the bunch and commenced passing her hands over Mrs. Hubbard's face. This is the last she remembers of the transaction at that time.

On the next day, Sunday, wishing to use some money, she went to the place where she was in the habit of keeping it, but could not find any and upon further search, it was ascertained that a dozen silver spoons and some other articles were missing.

Mrs. Hubbard then remembered that she was unconscious at the time these two women left, and that there had been during the rest of the day a strange feeling of dizziness in her head, and her suspicions were at once aroused that she had been magnetized by these women, and, that taking advantage of her unconscious condition, they had taken the money, silver, etc., with them. Procuring a team she started in the direction of their encampment, and upon taking advice proceeded to procure a search warrant and an officer. While doing this she was probably observed by the women, for on returning to her house to get ready to go with the officer, and while upstairs, the two women came into the house, left a bundle on a table, and simply remarked that "It was all right, they had only borrowed it," or something to that effect, and went away. Upon opening the bundle all of the missing articles, as well as the money, with the exception of some two or three dollars which was in silver, were found. It is supposed that the women noticed Mrs. Hubbard going to different places, and thinking that she suspected them of the theft, and not having had time to properly secrete the articles, took this method to avoid a prosecution. [It would be much easier today if stolen property could be recovered so easily--notice that it was the elderly/widowed victim even then!]

Well into the 1930's, I can remember a Gypsy coming to my home town with the circus. She would be in the furniture store window--swallowing marbles--[I presume it was some kind of magic act]. "Dirty Gertie", as my policeman father called her, scared me to pieces. Probably because I was told that if I didn't behave and stay close to home Gertie would take me away with her. I can still picture her in that window!

Tidbits From Then and Now

August 16, 1952

Activities commemorating the Assumption of the Blessed Mother were concluded last night with outdoor benediction services and band concert by the Napoli band of Boston at St. Peter's field.

A crowd of over 2000 was on hand for the program. It ended the two-day festive celebration under the direction of the Society of the Assumption of St. Peter's parish.

A Solemn high Mass was celebrated yesterday at 10 am at St. Peter's church. The Rev. Robert F. Joyce, pastor, was the celebrant. He was assisted by the Rev. Francis J. Gately, sub-deacon, and the Rev. Rocco Serra, deacon. Fr. Serra delivered the sermon in Italian.

Following Mass, over 1000 persons made a public demonstration of faith as they took part in a procession throughout the parish district. The procession was led by the Society president, Joseph R. Paul. Others in the procession were Fr. Joyce, Fr. Gately, assistant pastor at St. Peter's; Fr. Serra, and Mayor Dan J. Healy.

The Napoli band and the Mount St. Joseph Academy band also participated in the long procession.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was celebrated at an outdoor altar with Fr. Joyce acting as celebrant. He was assisted by Fr. Gately and Fr. Serra.

This year, 2001 we see a modified celebration with the Feast of the Assumption parish picnic held in Msgr. Connor Park on Sunday, August 19th. After the 10:30 Mass, there will be a small procession [again modified] around the parish district. The anticipated numbers are approximately 10% of the 1952 participants. Come to think of it, with today's prices, an Italian band for a two day celebration would be out of the question. The purpose of the celebration is the same, so fun, games and wonderful food and memories will be shared on that day.

Tidbits From Then and Now

AUG 22, 2001

August 23, 1952

Rutland Housewives Shopping Find Costs Fluctuate But Nothing is Reasonable

"Up and down" was the laconic reply given yesterday by many retail grocers on the subject of food prices in the Rutland area. While none of the grocers noted any spectacular prices rises, neither did any mention a marked downward trend in any particular commodity.

Several grocery store spokesmen, however, ventured the same opinion that eggs would be cheaper within a few weeks. They advanced two reasons--that pullets are beginning to lay eggs and the summer tourist drain on the egg market will be abated soon. One grocer said he has sold three times as many eggs this summer than any other time of the year. "I've sold them to summer camps, restaurants, hotels and individuals," he counted, adding, "That's a lot of eggs."

Meat prices on the average have remained fairly steady, grocers said, and one remarked, "But I can't say as anything is very reasonable." A woman spokesman noted pork and veal in particular, are "terribly high."

A boon to the harried housewife is the local produce of vegetables, such as tomatoes, cucumbers and corn. One grocer added canning peaches now are "very reasonable."

While one retailer said the fowl market is rather scarce, another commented turkeys cost a "little less" than several weeks ago. He continued "Maryland gobblers are beginning to be shipped now."

Regarding milk, all grocers said prices remain stable and one quipped, "Guess it proves there are more cows than chickens in Vermont."

Some price comparisons: 1952

2001

Chuck Roast .65/lb.	Bottom Round Roast \$1.79/lb.
Rib Steak .79/lb.	Sirloin Steak 2.99/lb.
Bacon .55/lb	Bacon 2.79/lb
Native Corn .49/doz.	Sweet Corn 6/1.98
Potatoes 10lb/.65	Potatoes 5lb./1.99
Soda-3qt.bottles .29	Soda-2 liter [store brand] 3/2.00

Consider that the working man's pay was also not what it is today! Then again, compared to other countries we can thank our "lucky stars" that we live as we do!

Tidbits From Then and Now

AUG 29, 2007

August 30, 1952

City Prepares For Labor Day Influx

Annual Rutland Fair Added to Attraction of Green Mountains Expected to Turn Community Into Tourist-Jammed Resort Over the Week-End.

Labor Day, one of the "travelingest" holiday week-ends of the year, shifted into gear last night with Rutland happily anticipating a tourist-jammed city for the three-day period. Besides visitors bent on viewing the beauty of the Green Mountains, Rutland has an added attraction to insure a gala weekend--the state fair which will open here Monday at the fairgrounds and continue the rest of the week.

Labor Day, the working man's holiday legalized nationally by Congress in 1894, traditionally climaxes summer, although the official finish is not until Sept. 22. Summer dance halls at lakes in the area have scheduled their last dances of the season this weekend, children's camps have closed, out-of-state campers are packing to go home and--last but not least--Labor Day is the signal for Milady to pack away her white shoes until next year.

Hotels, motels and tourist homes throughout the area expect a heavy rush of business. The Rutland Chamber of Commerce Retail committee voted that in addition to establishments closing Monday for the holiday, all downtown business establishments, with the exception of the banks and the post office, will close at noon on Thursday, Governor's Day at the fair.

The Vermont Transit Bus company said extra sections will be added if needed and the Rutland railroad has added two extra sleepers for Monday night from Burlington to New York and extra coaches on the day and night trains Monday afternoon and night.

The State Police barracks here has received orders from Commissioner of Public Safety William Baumann in Montpelier to cancel all days off this weekend in order to insure a constant traffic-watch. Almost as traditional as the holiday is the bumper-to-bumper traffic heading south on Main Street on Labor Day. Residents of the area usually settle on their porches and lawns to watch the "parade." A traffic diversion plan, [traffic diverted around the Fairgrounds from the corner of Jackson Avenue to Stratton Road, down Stratton Road to Allen Street, down Allen Street to South Main Street], helps keep the Main fairgrounds gate clear Chief Carbine said.

Where have all these people gone over the years?!!

Tidbits From Then and Now

SEP 5, 2001

September 6, 1952

Helicopter Drops in For Rutland Visit

A helicopter whirled down out of the sky onto the open fields off Harrington Avenue and Harvard Street at dusk Thursday night and caused no end of excitement until it was learned it was practically a routine flight.

The helicopter, owned by the Wiggins Airways of Norwood, Mass., and being used to spray brush along power lines of Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, landed just where it wanted to -- in the back yard of Leonard M. Donahue, superintendent of electrical maintenance for CVPS -- according to Edward W. Barufaldi of Plymouth, Mass., the pilot.

Barufaldi said he flew over from Rochester, where he had been spraying during the day, to Donahue's house to do some work on the electrical system. He landed in Donahue's backyard, because Donahue has the necessary equipment to make the repairs, the pilot added.

With Barufaldi on the flight over the mountains was Charles L. Condon of West Rutland, another CVPS employee who was acting in an unofficial capacity as navigator. He pointed out Donahue's house to the pilot when they reached Rutland.

The appearance of the plane attracted a large crowd of both young and old, many of whom had never had a close look at this type of airborne vehicle before.

Although today we watch space ships, see planes and helicopters in action on TV, at the movies or in the air there is still a fascination for both young and old about vehicles that move through the skies. Remember the fun of sitting at an airport in the 70s, with the family, to watch the planes come and go? Imagine the feeling of having a helicopter land in your neighborhood in the 1950's!!

SEP 12, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

March 30, 1951

Library News

Proving that readers' interests run in cycles, publishers and librarians are finding a great revival in demands for what is now called "fantasy" or "science fiction."

Hailing back to the days of Jules Verne, H. Rider Haggard and the earlier H.G. Wells, tales of fantastic adventures in lost lands and on distant planets are again in great popularity. Scientific progress, much of which outdoes the most fertile imaginations of the fiction writers, has opened a great field of story telling. New publishing houses dealing with science fiction alone, are rushing new books and magazines to the fans. Old favorites are being republished in anthologies and in paper pocket editions.

Here are a few titles from the public library's collection:

- Bond--Lancelot Biggs, Spaceman
- Conklin--Big Book of Science Fiction
- Ehrlich--The Big Eye
- Friend--Kid From Mars
- Gernsbach--Ralph 124C41 Plus
- Hunlein--Man Who Sold the Moon
- Hubbard--Slaves of Sleep
- Wells--Seven Science Fiction Novels
- Williamson--The Humanoids

Now, fifty years later, we have overgrown monster animals, space voyagers, "eternity and beyond" among the science fiction favorites as well as moving into a field of "horror" stories and movies that cannot possibly be called "science" fiction. Talk about "fertile" imaginations!

Thankfully, our libraries still carry popular reading material for the scholarly, the beginning reader, the researcher and for those who just enjoy relaxing and reading a good book.

SEP 19, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

Thinking you got too much sun this summer? Did you get a good tan? Maybe you took good care and protected yourself from the sun with all the fine products on the market to keep your skin in good shape. Back in September of 1928 there were many remedies for taking care of your skin after the summer fun as noted from this article.

Erasing Tan Accumulated During Summer

If the symptoms of your summer beauty ills are a V of tan on the front of your neck and a semicircle in back--if your complexion is many shades darker than is becoming to your type--now is the time to think about a good bleaching program. There are excellent creams and liquids for bleaching. If you want a home-made cream let me tell you a home-made bleach which has been used by Southern belles for generations.

It is made by soaking a few ounces of raw oatmeal in water until it forms a thick, jelly-like paste. Then stir in an equal amount of almond meal. Apply this to the face and other affected parts and allow it to remain on until it has dried. Then gently rinse the paste off with warm water and a dash of cold. If you repeat this treatment faithfully you will find your skin gradually whiter and gaining a lovely soft texture as well.

Buttermilk is excellent for bleaching but it is irritating to some skins. One of the best bleaches, and one made famous through its use by historical beauties, is cucumber pulp. Cut up the cucumber, skin and all, and stew it in a little water until a pulp is obtained. Let this cool and apply it to the skin, retaining 10 minutes. Then remove it with a soft cloth.

If you use the old time-honored remedy of lemon juice, remember to dilute it at least with an equal part of water or rose water. If used undiluted lemon juice is likely to darken rather than whiten the skin.

For an especially stubborn case of tan use this remedy: One ounce of strained honey, 6 drops of oil of bitter almonds, 1 teaspoonful of lemon juice, whites of 2 eggs and enough powdered oatmeal to thicken the whole to the consistency of a smooth paste. Rub this on and let it remain an hour or longer.

Tan is the beauty ill you are most likely to neglect, because it comes on gradually and it doesn't change your looks as noticeably as freckles. But, if you take serious advice, based on years of experience in keeping women beautiful, you will not allow your skin to tan too heavily, and if you have already done so, you will hasten to repair the damage before the Fall season.

Remember having a girls get-together and using oatmeal or such for a facial? Imagine the fortunes that have been made since the late 1920s with remedies for making your skin beautiful!

SEP 26, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

The real estate business was booming in the spring of 1929. Some of the buildings may stir some memories for a lot of people. For some it may be fun to try to locate where buildings actually were.

February 15, 1929. Leland Fish, local real estate dealer will erect what he calls the first model home in Vermont on Birchwood Avenue in the subdivision known as "Elm Tree Manor" just east of Dana School.---The house will be of the Dutch Colonial type and will contain seven rooms. It will be built by Karlson Brothers of Proctor.

April 20, 1929. Frank Trombetta of 164 Grove Street and Jasper Cacioppi of 84 Granger Street bought the former Antiseptic Bedding Company building at 70 School Street which is now being used as a filling station, a store and three private tenements. Trombetta is president of Rutland Gas and Oil Co. and controls six other gas filling stations in other parts of the city. Cacioppi is owner of a billiard parlor at 107 West Street. Joseph and Mary Lanahan of 70 Grove Street were former owners of the building which was for years used as a manufacturing plant for mattresses.

Dr. Cootey's widow, who lived at 40 Washington Street bought the Old Sawyer Home on 44 Washington Street. The home was built by Col. James M. Putnam, an early Rutlander, who was instrumental in the building of the Rutland railroad and many of the older business blocks in Rutland---The property is one of the most desirable locations in the city and the house is one of the few remaining landmarks of early Rutland.

One of the largest fireproof storage garages in the state, built in 1916 by former Governor Percival Clement and Frank Dunn, has been purchased by A. Alfred Rabidou for a garage business. The Dunn garage will continue the retail and tire accessory business in the southern part of the building.

Many times when a building was erected, the name of the owner was placed permanently over the door or located on the front of the building. It's fun to look around on old buildings and find the name and wonder just who that person was and how he fit into Rutland's history. [I say "he" as not too many women were involved in having their name placed on a building].

Tidbits From Then and Now

SEP 26, 2001

On September 26, 1928, the Crestwood Hotel on Grove Street was badly damaged by flames and water late in the afternoon. The fire which was attributed to a defective chimney, spread to a number of rooms, gutted part of the roof and destroyed a cupola in the west wing of the building. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski estimated that the loss would probably exceed \$15,000.

The building, which is owned by Robert C. and Albert J. Boynton of Rutland is operated as a summer hotel. The wooden structure burned rapidly and the firemen had to combat dense smoke which was pouring out on all sides. Most of the damage was confined to three bedrooms in the west wing, but water drenched the entire west front section of the building's interior.

Chief Koltonski stated that in his opinion, a grate fire on the first floor was responsible for the damage. The flames, caused by a defective chimney, spread rapidly both upwards and downwards. "The men deserve a lot of credit for their work. They ate a lot of smoke but stayed right on the job," he said. The loss is the largest in a single fire in Rutland since 1924 when flames destroyed a number of buildings, belonging to the Lincoln iron works on West and Baxter Streets.

The building which is three stories high and of frame construction, formerly was the residence of the late Gen. H.H. Baxter. The estate was sold in March, 1927 for \$70,000 by the general's son, Hugh H. Baxter of New Rochelle, NY, to a group of citizens who deeded the house and some outbuildings to the Boyntons, after reserving a tract of land as a high school site.

The Boyntons redecorated the interior in harmony with the original design of the old mansion and many of the Baxter furnishings remained. It was opened as a summer hotel on June 30, 1927. The structure contains 30 bedrooms and the dining room seats about 75 persons.

Rutland High School was built on the tract of land east of the hotel and in later years the Crestwood Hotel was taken down to make room for the construction of the Junior High School. The original wall of the Baxter estate can still be seen on the Grove Street side of the school.

A lifelong resident of Rutland was six years old when this fire occurred and he remembers following the crowd, all by himself, to watch the fire and being very confused as to how he was going to get back to his home when it was over. He doesn't remember how, but he did make it back.

Tidbits From Then and Now

OCT 10, 2001

Previously I wrote an article about the Rutland Women's Club having the duty to make sure that all the grocery stores, meat markets and pastry shops in the area were checked to make sure that aprons were clean and merchandise was covered to make sure that the foods that their families were purchasing were properly taken care of. That article was taken from some notes that needed to be transcribed. Further interesting information has been found in *The Vermonter*, dated May, 1930:

In October of 1928, the Trustees of the Building Fund of the Rutland Woman's Club, six in number, Mrs. Frances D. Twigg, president, became incorporated under the laws of the State of Vermont for the purpose of purchasing and managing property for the Rutland Woman's Club and in November bought of Arabella A. K. Gilmore her home at 93 Center Street to be used as a Club House.

The purchase price was \$18,000. Through the courtesy of Mr. Leland Fish, real estate dealer, who acted as agent, a gift of \$250 reduced the price to \$17,750. From an accumulated fund \$7,250 was paid, giving a mortgage on the property for \$10,500. During the following year a musical comedy, "Jappyland" was staged and the debt reduced \$500, making the present indebtedness \$10,000 at 5 per cent.

Two very desirable apartments on second floor with six garages in the rear bring a monthly rental of \$120. This income is used to meet running expenses, taxes, interest, insurance, water rent, janitor service, repairs and oil for heating.

For the lower floor, spacious and attractive, used entirely for club purposes, the Club pays the Trustees \$50 a month. With this income and the annual production of a musical comedy or play, it is hoped to be able to reduce the indebtedness materially each year.

The cost of alterations and redecorating of club rooms, about \$500, was met by the rental of same, after purchase and before occupancy by the Club in October 1929.

A series of card parties is being given this year to raise money to defray cost of new furnishings. A new \$750 upright Sohmer piano was installed a paid for out of a special piano fund at interest for several years. A balance is left, the income from which will pay for tuning each year.

Since the opening of the Club rooms, there has been a demand for rentals by other clubs and organizations and this revenue will be a financial aid.

This beautiful building still stands at 93 Center Street. Can you just imagine what the rental would be today for two apartments and six garages?! Do many of you remember when it was the Rutland Women's Club or even how long it housed them?

OCT 17, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

On account of the increase in the parish of St. Peter's, rendering it impossible to accommodate the Sunday congregations, it was deemed best to divide the parish, and the division was consummated January 2, 1907, with the creation of a new Church to be called Holy Innocents. Rev. Father W. N. Lonergan, who had been an assistant to Rev. Father Gaffney in St. Peter's twenty-five years ago, was appointed pastor. The first services in the new church were held in Eagle Hall, January 2, 1907, and subsequently until December, 1909, in the Rutland Opera House.

Land was purchased for the erection of the church at the corner of South Main Street and Killington Avenue and the basement was finished so that the first service was held there December 25, 1909.

Basement foundation of Holy Innocents Church in background

In 1926, Fr. Lonergan's successor, Rev. Bernard Kelley, purchased a new plot of land south of Killington Ave., [at 66 South Main Street], from H. S. Parker, who owned the Brock Hotel.

Rutland Herald, Monday, October 17, 1927

Decide On New Location For Church

Holy Innocents Edifice to be Erected on Killington Ave. Corner

The matter having been put up to the parishioners for vote, it was decided by a big majority yesterday to build the new Church of the Holy Innocents edifice at the southeast corner of South Main Street and Killington Avenue.

Some weeks ago it was decided to erect the building at the extreme south end of the Holy Innocents property which would place it at the head of Madison Street, but when it was found that the entire congregation did not approve of this site the matter was again brought to a vote.

The change in site will mean the moving of the H. S. Parker house recently purchased by the parish and now being used as the rectory. It is expected that following the definite location of the church, plans will soon be underway for its early erection.

Work is fast nearing completion on the new brick and marble school building on the foundation formerly intended for the church. It is expected this structure will be ready for occupancy by cold weather. [This became Christ the King School].

In 1928, Rev. Bernard Kelley undertook the construction of the present white marble church [at the head of Madison Street] where the first Mass was celebrated on the feast of Christ the King in 1929, at which time the parish adopted the Christ the King name.

Tidbits From Then and Now

OCT 31, 2001

When we think back to 1901, one hundred years ago, we don't think that women had too much to do with working outside of the home. Some worked in factories or bakeries or even did sewing from their home. But looking back through the newspapers of that time can be an eye-opener for many when it comes to women working, as noted in the following tidbits.

October 24, 1901

The annual harvest home festival for the benefit of the old ladies' home [North Main Street] was a success in every way.

Old Ladies' Home, North Main Street

The belt line cars, which were **run by women conductors** for the benefit of the home were well patronized and a good sum netted from this source.

Contributions at the open house included brooms, hams, table linen, salt, fresh and canned vegetables and fruits, china and agate wear, pickles, towels, butter, soap, cranberries, kerosene oil and a steel meat cutter. Money contributions amounted to \$40.

The belt line cars did a big business and the proceeds ran considerably ahead of last year. The **women conductors** had many laughable experiences during the day. The experiences of several unwise patrons who omitted to have some small money in their pockets when they boarded the cars were not so laughable nor yet so profitable. The last of the temporary conductors went out of service at 10 PM.

Then we have two very enterprising women noted on October 31, 1901.

Miss Mary E. Levins, for many years chief clerk for M.J. Francisco & Son, and Miss Margaret S. Sullivan for several years in the employ of the Ross-Huntress company, have formed a partnership under the firm name of Levins & Sullivan for the purpose of conducting a general insurance business, including life, fire and accident, as well as a mileage department, in this city. Rooms are being fitted up for the new firm in the Quinn building at No. 53 Merchants Row, and the offices will be opened on November 1.

Nov 7, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

We all know that a fireman's life is one of unexpected happenings. Even back in the 1920s things could be hectic for firemen as witnessed in the following articles.

February 26, 1920

This morning at 9 o'clock the door of Fire Station Number 1 [attached to City Hall] will be thrown open to the public. Until late at night shining apparatus, smiling men in blue uniforms, the department's unique collection of smoking pipes[!], many historical old photographs and the quarters in which the men live will be subject to inspection by Mr. and Mrs. John Rutlander and family.

Commissioner of Public Safety, John C. Fox, yesterday extended an invitation to every resident of the city to stop in at the station sometime during the day and look over the equipment, the men and the building. The apparatus from Station Number 2 [now the Rutland Historical Society] on Center Street will be moved down to the Central Station during the day and will also undergo inspection.

Yesterday the firemen were busy getting things in shape for the visitors. The inspection will be the first in several years. Tonight the Rutland Firemen's Benefit Association will hold a meeting and supper at the Central Station.

February 27, 1929

Firefighters doffed their blue uniforms, donned waiters' coats and hats and served a chicken salad supper, prepared in the fire station.

Owing to poor weather only a few persons turned out for the inspection during the day. Commissioner Fox commented on the situation, speaking at the evening meeting: "We had a splendid show here but very, very few were here to look it over...When we are interested in our work it is a pleasure to have people show an interest in our department.

Mayor Perkins pointed out the need for more men while Ex-Mayor James C. Dunn stated "...our department is one of the best of its kind in the whole United States...the American-LaFrance Company, whose apparatus we are using, has said: 'In no city in the United States is there apparatus that is kept in such wonderful condition as there is in Rutland, Vermont'.

Riford Tuttle, President of the Chamber of Commerce was speaking on the early days of volunteer fire fighting when his talk was interrupted by an alarm. Firemen jumped over tables, knocked over chairs, threw off their party clothes and jumped into the trucks. They arrived at the scene of the fire within seconds. Two sedans were badly damaged in a garage on Madison Street where the probable cause was a short circuit in one of the cars.

March 26, 1929

A playful bolt of lightning, which dropped out of the sky yesterday morning about 8:05 o'clock gave the firemen at the Central station on Merchants Row a real scare.

The lightning followed wires into the alarm system, tooted the whistle, traveled along the second floor, then darted down the brass pole, which the firemen use in descending from their sleeping quarters to the ground floor. It rolled down the pole, tarnishing the surface somewhat, and disappeared. The firemen caught their breaths as the whistle blew, awaiting the alarm and were somewhat startled when the bolt of electricity crackled behind them. No damage was done.

Sounds like it must go with the job. Firemen must expect to deal with the unexpected!

NOV 14, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

Americans, be they friends, neighbors or whole communities always seem to be there to help in time of troubles. This is not by any means a new circumstance for 2001. During the depression in the late 1920s and early 1930s everyone did what they needed to do to survive. Many of us can remember living through that time, although the very young were not really aware of how their parents struggled to provide the necessities of life.

November 18, 1931

List of Unemployed in City Slowly Increases

Rutland's list of registered jobless is slowly increasing. Figures given out yesterday at the unemployment office in the Mead building showed a total of 427 registered to date. Of this total, 145 are men with wife and children, 60 men with wife only, 163 single men and 158 women. [should you be inclined to total these figures you will get 526, who were the other 99 people?]. According to Miss Lulu M. Tye, chamber secretary, jobs for these men and women are coming in very slowly.

Only two jobs have been placed with the chamber for disposal since last Saturday. However, it is expected that within a short time more opportunities for work will be available for these applicants, officials believe.

Theaters to Donate Shows for Relief.**Rutland Playhouses Will Join Movement Next Week for Poor**

The entire proceeds of a series of special donation performances in every motion picture theater in New England during the week of November 18-25 will go for the relief of the unemployed, in accordance with arrangements made between President Hoover's Commission on Unemployed and Will H. Hays, representing the motion picture industry, and recently announced by the Commissioner in charge of arrangements for the New England area.

Proceeds from the performances will not be turned into any national fund or be taken out of any locality in which the performances are held. In line with other theaters, the two Rutland playhouses, The Paramount and the New Grand, will give midnight shows next Thursday night. The proceeds will be turned over to local relief organization.

No matter how needy, somehow, some way neighbors, friends and communities come through!

Nov 21, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

November 26, 1885

Thanksgiving as a national festival owes its origin to the proclamation of President Lincoln, issued October 3, 1863, appointing Thursday, November 26, 1863, recommending unanimous observance of the day. The great victory of Chatanooga, won by Grant over Bragg, November 25, made this holiday a glorious thanksgiving. The following are excerpts from that famous proclamation of national thanksgiving:

“Population has steadily increased, notwithstanding the waste that has been made in the camp, the siege and the battlefield; and the country, rejoicing in the consciousness of augmented strength and vigor, is permitted to expect a continuance of years with large increase of freedom”

“...I do therefore invite my fellow citizens in every part of the United States, and also those who are at sea and those sojourning in foreign lands, to set apart and observe the last Thursday of November as a day of Thanksgiving and Prayer to our beneficent Father who dwelleth in the heavens. And I recommend to them that they, while offering up the ascriptions justly due to Him for such singular deliverance and blessings, they do also, with humble penitence for our national perverseness and disobedience, commend to His tender care all those who have become widows, orphans, mourners or sufferers in the lamentable civil strife in which we are unavoidably engaged, and reverently implore the interposition of the Almighty hand to heal the wounds of the nation and to restore it, as soon as may be consistent with the Divine purposes, to the full enjoyment of peace, harmony, tranquility and union.”

The article goes on to describe many of the battles during the Civil War as well as noting Thanksgiving days as far back as 1607 by a band of Colonists who had landed on the island in the Kennebec. Another was observed by the Plymouth colonists in 1623. In 1669 a thanksgiving day was ordered for the accession of William and Mary. In the Massachusetts Colony, from its first settlement until the Revolution, thanksgivings of some sort were of annual occurrence.

In April, 1815, President Madison recommended a special day of thanksgiving on the successful termination of the War of 1812 and from that time until the great Civil War, the civil recognition of the day was confined to New England.

“Thanksgiving, even in the extremity of its rudest jollity, is a better day for the people than it was in early Colonial days, when it was a black letter day of gloom and dread in every child’s calendar.....it has come to be a day of mirth and affectionate reunion.”

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

NOV 28, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

We often wonder about the number of people that show up for an evening meeting. How many will come? Are there too many other things going on? Are enough people interested in the topic to come? The following article, from 100 years ago, shows that it's not just now that meeting can be unattended:

November 15, 1900

NO TORCHLIGHT PARADE

Herald Reporter Attends a Republican Mass Meeting

Rutland will have no torchlight procession nor other parade to celebrate the republican victory. The die, as one might say, was cast last Friday evening. In the august presence of three republicans assembled in a hall on Merchants Row the fatal words were spoken.

The call for a republican meeting in the City troop's rooms Friday night had been issued two days. It was expected that a good crowd of men full of patriotic enthusiasm and flush with funds would respond and, amidst a golden shower of shekels[gold or silver coins], vote to hold a torchlight procession with bands, red fire and other side issues. When a Herald reporter arrived at the rooms shortly after the hour there sat only one person, a commissioned officer in the Rutland City troop, was there. He alone represented the republicans of this city of over 11,000 souls.

"Isn't there a republican mass meeting here tonight?" the reporter asked. "O, yes!" answered the lone watcher, "they'll all be around in a few minutes." Seventeen minutes passed and a step was heard on the stairs. It proved to be a man, a republican and a commissioned officer in the Rutland City troop. "Nobody around yet?" he inquired; "well, they'll all be here in a few minutes". Eleven minutes passed before the quiet was again disturbed. Another footfall was heard on the stairs. Again it proved to be a man, a republican and a commissioned officer in the Rutland City troop. He greeted his comrades with an interrogative silence and the three sat down to await the coming of the host. As the minutes passed an no sound of the onrushing crowd was heard. Bright pictures of an enthusiastic meeting and a brilliant celebration grew dimmer and dimmer in the minds of the waiting officers. At 8:49 o'clock all rose in their wrath, and in sounding tones the officer of the day pronounced some awful words and the lone and weary watchers silently filed away into the blustering night.

Maj. A.J. Dunton of the Roosevelt rough riders stated Friday that the organization will hold a meeting in the rooms of the Rutland City troop next Tuesday evening for the purpose of disbanding.

Sound familiar for some organizations?

DEC 5, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

December 4, 1931

Firemen Take Role of Kris Kringle
Turn Station Into Repair Shop to Mend Toys for Christmas Gifts

The Central fire station at the city hall is beginning to resound with the buzz of saws, hum of motors and blows of hammers as the firemen turn to their annual job of acting as Santa Claus to hundreds of Rutland poor children.

Toys of all sorts are pouring into the station to be repaired and painted for distribution on Christmas eve to boys and girls whose parents might be unable to purchase playthings. Last Christmas more than 500 children were made happy in this way.

For the firemen, it is a busy but happy month. Like the storied father and his son's electric train on Christmas morning, the firemen enjoy repairing broken and damaged toys and seeing them work again. One corner of the station is transformed into a paint shop where sleds, little automobiles, tricycles and other large playthings are given new color. The men take turns at this work, each painting for a few hours, then turning to the repair of some broken mechanical toy.

Not only do the firemen give much of their time during December to this task, but their wives also spend many of their evenings making dresses and other clothing for the scores of dolls which have been repaired by the firemen.

After school and evenings, the windows at the back of the station are sparkling with the eyes of little boys and girls who come there regularly to take a peek into Santa's workshop. As Christmas Day approaches, there is scarcely room in the station for the trucks, toys being piled almost to the ceiling on one side of the ladder truck, and piles of sleds reaching higher than the men's heads on the other side of this piece of apparatus. Then, too, almost every available inch of space at the rear of the station is filled.

Letters have already begun to arrive at the station labeled "Santa Claus," "Kris Krinkle," and "Santa's Workshop." The addresses include "North Pole," "Way-Up-North," "Ice Land." Most of the toys renovated are sent into the station as gifts by interested persons.

The Surprise Store ad for Christmas 1931

DEC 12, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

Flags are a solid symbol of patriotism whether it be for country, state or team. Flagmakers are kept busy when the demand outweighs production as happened after September 11, 2001. The following article was found in the **March 1861** Rutland Herald.

The Stars and Stripes At A Discount

The existing national difficulties have furnished for the flag-makers of New York a rich harvest, and from the present appearance the crop is not half gathered. In the early history of the secession movement each of the States chose a flag to wave over their lands, and as the troubles increased so the varieties in the combination of bunting grew more numerous. Owing to the inability of having them made at the South, the orders were forwarded to New York, and the flag-makers were busily employed in filling them. Over one thousand flags were dispatched within a month. When the seven States entered into a compact a confederate flag was adopted, and the result was that all the former flags were useless, and consequently the orders for new styles came in very rapidly. Last week Annin & Co., of Fulton Street, sent off two hundred and forty of the confederate ensigns. The southern dealers sent back the genuine original flag saying, "You can allow us for them, or at any rate, we do not want them." Notwithstanding the large number of United States flags returned they found ready sale for them, owing to the fact that hotels, saloons, and even private residences, in various sections of the country, now desire to display the good old Stars and Stripes. It is said that the reason that the flags are not made at the South is, that the moths get into the original packages and before they are made up they are ruined. As yet no jack [lifting device] has been adopted to accompany the flag. This will be done shortly, and then there will be another chance for the flag-makers.

Isn't it interesting that the Southern states needed the North to make their Confederate flags? But, talk about secession movements! The following letter appeared on January 21, 1861:

Mendon

Mr. Editor - Dear Sir, I think it is my duty to inform the public of the double treason which is in formation in this town. I am credibly informed there has been several secret meetings of the most prominent citizens of this place for the double purpose of seceding from the Federal Government and from the State of Vermont. I understand the Chief Justice of Mendon has given it as his opinion, that a Town not only has the legal right to secede from the United States, but from the State in which it is located; therefore the inhabitants of this distinguished locality are determined to free themselves from all foreign authority whatever. The Shingle Weavers' Society have formed themselves into a battalion of dragoons, mounting their wooden horses, and armed with the shave, together with the Wood Choppers' Association, as heavy infantry, and armed with their usual implements of destruction, have tendered their services to the leaders of this treasonable plot. B.G.A.

Thank goodness Mendon is still with us!!

DEC 19, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

Don't Despair, this year is not the only one that has been lacking in snow before Christmas. On December 24, 1931 The weatherman predicted a "Green Christmas".

"Unless St. Nick can pull a few tricks out of his red bag, there will be very little, if any, snow for Christmas. Squinting at eastern skies today, R.H. Weightman, weather forecaster, couldn't see a snowflake for the country east of the Mississippi. For the western half of the nation there isn't much in prospect either. Record high temperatures sent thermometers in three-quarters of the country to as much as 20 degrees above normal today as a year of abnormally warm weather was drawing to a close. No freezing weather was in evidence except in a small part of the northwest, and there was practically no snow on the ground save in the high mountains. Confining his Christmas Day predictions to the east alone, Weightman said there would be no snow although rain might fall in some localities in the Ohio Valley, lower lake regions and the Tennessee district."

And yet another memory from a Christmas past:

On December 16, 1876 three bells were installed in the new tower of St. Peter's Church. As is the custom, each bell received a name. The largest bell at 3000 pounds was named St. Peter; The middle bell at 1500 pounds was named St. Mary and the third at 800 pounds was called St. Joseph. They were ordered from the Meneely Bell Foundry of Troy, NY and were cast of the best metal and had a fine tone. A lifelong resident of Rutland has remembered a poem that was written by Edith Temple, who was impressed by the ringing bells she could hear from her home on Dorr Drive. This poem was set to music in the early 20th Century by the music teacher at St. Peter's School and she taught the 5th-6th graders to sing "St. Peter's Bells".

Ring, ring St. Peter's bells
Tell of the Christ Child sweet.
Tell of the years we all have trod
With traveled and weary feet.
Tell of the home we all so loved
Tell of the heights above.
As we lift up our hearts to thy midnight peal
And gaze way back through the years,
To our childhood days
When our song of praise
Was set to thy glorious bells.
Bless us one, bless us all this Christmas tide
As you will till the years shall cease,
When our earthly music shall meet and blend
In the eternal song of peace
Christmas bells, St. Peter's bells.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

DEC 26, 2001

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland To Usher In Infant 1932 Tonight With Great Merrymaking

When the stroke of 12 tonight ushers in the New Year, hundreds of Rutlanders will be making merry at the military ball, Masonic "Ladies' Night," Knights of Columbus "open house," Eagles' banquet, midnight shows and private house parties.

Governor Stanley C. Wilson, Lieut. Governor Benjamin Williams, Adjt.-General Herbert T. Johnson, Col. Murdock A. Campbell, Congressmen John E. Weeks and Ernest W. Gibson are expected to be among the distinguished guests at the military ball at the armory, which is sponsored by Company A and Headquarters company, 1st Battalion, Vermont National Guard, under the direction of Col. Leonard F. Wing. Guard mount will be put on by members of the two companies to music by the Legion Drum corps. A local nine-piece orchestra will furnish music for dancing.

Center lodge, F. and A.M. will be hosts at a "Ladies' night" affair at the Masonic temple, opening with a supper at the Hotel Bardwell at 7:30 o'clock. Dancing will be in order from 9 until 2 o'clock with music by a nine-piece orchestra.

Congressman Gibson will speak at the Eagles' banquet at Hotel Berwick at 7:15. Charles F. Ryan will preside. State's Attorney Jack A. Crowley will also be a speaker. The program will be broadcast over Station WSYB.

Members of Rutland council, Knights of Columbus will entertain their friends at a party at their new recreational center. There will be dancing from 9 until 12 o'clock after which luncheon will be served. The same orchestra which played at the Thanksgiving night dance will furnish music.

That was Seventy years ago! Today we have First Night with several activities. And who thought it was a new idea!! Does anyone stay up to watch the ball come down on Times Square anymore? Remember listening to it on the radio back before television?

Anyway, have a Safe and Happy New Year no matter how you spend it!

JAN 3, 2002

Tidbits From Then and Now

It seems remarkable that Rutland had so many talented persons of national note that either were born in Rutland, migrated to Rutland or just stopped for a while in Rutland. One interesting first for Rutland is noted in the newspaper of August 1869.

Music In The Public Schools -- The Board of Trustees of the Rutland Graded Schools have appointed Prof. George A. Mietzke teacher of music in the public schools of Rutland. He commences his labors with the term that begins August 19th. *Mason's Musical Chart*, which is in use in all the public schools in Boston, will be used. Rutland is the first town in Vermont to officially introduce music into the public schools.

Rutland was not only concerned with the education of its children but also with the everyday needs of its citizens.

In 1869 the editor of the *Rutland Herald* wrote an article recommending peat [a partly decayed moisture-absorbing plant matter found in ancient bogs and swamps] for use as a fuel for those who owned a coal burner. The response brought about the following two articles and shows that generosity and caring by Rutland citizens has passed down through the generations.

"Mr. Editor: In the Herald of the 16th inst., you recommend the use of peat. We fully concur with you in your opinions, and in order that the people may become acquainted with it, we propose to let any citizen in the village of Rutland, who owns a coal burner and wants fuel for it, to go and take from our peat bed on Pine Hill, one and a half miles west of the village, all the peat that he may want for his winter's use, provided it does not in any instance exceed ten tons. This offer is made not only to those who have coal burners, but also to the Gas Company and such as might wish to use it in boilers or furnaces. **Clark Bros. & Co.**"

"A Generous Offer -- By reference to a card from Messrs. Clark, Bros. & Co., in today's paper, it will be seen that citizens of Rutland can secure this winter's fuel by merely going a mile and a half for it. We hope the offer will be accepted at once, the peat cut out and dried, and the people in a measure relieved from the great burden now imposed by the high price of coal. In order to have the peat dry for next winter, it should be cut out before the fall rains commence or cold weather approaches."

Have any of you readers ever heard about the peat bed on Pine Hill? We all know about the stone crusher, but wouldn't a bog be necessary to access peat? Maybe around Muddy or Rocky Ponds!

Isn't it nice to know how people worked together to help one another in the past. And also to know that the same thing happens when there is a need as we approach 2002 ----that's 132 years of caring and sharing. May it continue for the future generations to know that Rutland cares about their citizens.

JAN 9, 2002

Tidbits From Then and Now

February 7, 1861

The Use and Abuse of Eyesight

Very few give any attention to this subject until warned by the evidences of the failure of eyesight. This warning is often practically too late. Light may be deficient or may be excessive in quantity. The introduction of gas into our private houses has undoubtedly produced injury to the vision on account of its extreme brilliancy, but oftener on account of its misapplication and mismanagement. The argand burner furnishes light of as good a quality, and a flame as steady, as can be procured in any way. If properly shaded and guarded, no better light need be desired. Several of our eminent jurists, who have much experience in night work, prefer sperm or wax candles. There is no doubt that great improvements will yet be introduced, so that the gas flame will be made to furnish a light more like the white light of day, and more steady. It must of necessity be concentrated, and for this reason be less excellent than daylight. Besides, it lacks the chromatic constituents of the light which the sun supplies.

Looking at panoramas, fireworks, lightning, reading by the light of the moon at twilight, the use of the telescope, microscope, are all dangerous modes of employing the eyes. On this subject we might say much if space afforded. There are two methods of injuring the eye by the false direction of light, which we must pause to mention; that is, reading by a side light, or while lying in bed. The universality of the first habit has led to the frequent observation among oculists that the left eye is most apt to be diseased. The evil effects of the latter are illustrated in the case of a patient who had applied to us while writing this page. He has asthenopia in the left eye, caused by reading in bed while lying upon his right side. It is true the light should come over the left shoulder, but it should fall from above, and the head should be erect.

We do not know of a better place than this to enter our protest against the method of lighting churches. We are often told by our patients that it takes half the week to recover from the effects of the gas light on Sabbath evening. The subject of deranged vision must enter the church, after having passed through darkness from his own lighted house, to meet a glaring, dazzling light wherever he turns his eyes. If he would look at the preacher he must endure the ordeal of facing argand burners or gas jets, shining directly in his eyes. Surely on this subject there is too little consideration.

Supposedly the comparison of a candle or oil lamp to a gas lamp for reading denoted great strides, but was still controversial. Years later, into the 1870s, Edison developed the incandescent light. It was one of his most noted inventions. From that time on lighting took on fantastic improvements. But, can you remember being told not to stare at a light or it would hurt your eyes? Don't stare at the sun or eclipse or it could hurt your eyes! And today it can still be heard---"don't get so near to the TV, it can hurt your eyes". And even reading in bed is still not encouraged by eye or medical doctors. It seems you can get too comfortable with some of the features of some of these "modern inventions"!! So, take note and use but don't abuse of your eyesight.

JAN 16, 2002

Tidbits From Then and Now

Recently the Rutland Historical Society received a letter from a man from Grafton, who has a silo that was made in Rutland. He was inquiring about the background of the company that made this silo for the purpose of putting the silo on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Needless to say, while looking for information, an interesting article came to mind. Who made these silos?

An article in the June 6, 1901 issue of the Rutland Herald gave the first clue:

"The new molder for the silo staves has been put in place in the silo department of the Moseley & Stoddard Manufacturing Company's plant in this city and the making of silos was begun Monday. The proportions of the new molder are 4' X 8' and it was made by S.A. Wood & Co. of Boston. The Moseley & Stoddard Company have added a new truck team to their plant and six teams are now at work."

Then on October 17th:

"The Moseley & Stoddard Manufacturing Company of this city will rebuild the main part of their plant on Forest Street, which was burned Sunday, the 6th, on a larger scale than before. The new building will be on the same site and will be four instead of three stories high. About one-half of the brick walls now standing will be used. An addition of about half the capacity of the former building will be erected at the north side of the previous structure, which was 40 by 80 feet in proportions. The new building will be started at once. The sawmill at the Moseley & Stoddard Manufacturing company's plant was started Monday noon for the first time since the fire. About 78 men of the 90 employees affected by the fire are now at work."

And in December:

"A new ladder, 30 feet long, has been presented to the city fire department by the Moseley & Stoddard Manufacturing Company in return for the work of the department at the time of the company's fire last fall. The sides of the ladder are of Oregon pine and the rounds of white ash. It is the longest single ladder in the department's equipment."

Further information was found that indicates that the Moseley & Stoddard Manufacturing Company on Forest Street became the Rutland Manufacturing Company and had an offshoot at another location called The Creamery Package Manufacturing Company that produced the following ad:

How many know where this building was located on West Street?

JAN 23, 2002

Tidbits From Then and Now

Some time ago I wrote an article about doing research and how it can become totally absorbing. Recently the Rutland Herald printed an article about the Boys and Girls Club possibly buying the Knights of Columbus Building on Merchants Row. While browsing through a 1901 newspaper, I came upon another article about the K of C buying furniture for their meeting rooms. That's when it all got started and I wondered about this beautiful building that had been the Royce home. Just how long had the K. of C. been at this location?

First the 1901 article:

"The furnishings for the Knights of Columbus hall in the West Street Quinn Building [Corner of West & Merchants Row, at that time West and Grove Streets], arrived Monday from Grand Rapids, Mich. They are of heavy quartered oak, the chairs being leather upholstered and attractively embossed on the backs, the designs containing the letters "K.C.". The furniture consists of 15 high-backed leather-covered settees to be placed around the walls, an altar, four pedestals and four large chairs for the officers' stations and four chairs for the guards. There is also a heavy oak double desk and two swivel chairs for the recording and financial secretaries. The parlor at the club rooms is fitted with oak chairs and table and the floor is covered with a Brussels carpet. More furnishings will be added later. The game room contains a pool table, chairs and four card tables. In the reading room are the center table and chairs of oak. When the furnishing of the rooms is completed they will be among the most attractive in the city."

Then I wondered if any of this furniture still existed in the present building. That led to, when did they move from the Quinn Building? The only notation in the City Directories is that they have meeting rooms. They do not tell you where these "rooms" are.

According the City Directories of 1919 and 1920 Mrs. Ellen Cynthia White Royce was still living in her home at 29 Grove Street. Alice C. Royce boarded in the home and Richard H. Royce, was employed in Akron, Ohio, but boarded there also. [I guess that's what they called it if your children were still living at home]. There is no 1921 City Directory and I found that in the 1922 directory, the Knights of Columbus had occupied the Royce home and Mrs. Royce and Richard were living at 133 Grove Street. [Richard was listed in 1923 as the assistant city engineer].

Mystery? The Knights of Columbus must have moved to this home in 1921. Fortunately, Bob Tedesco came up with a history of the Knights of Columbus and it was thrilling to learn the following: In 1917 the Clark McMaster property [located across the street from the Royce home], was purchased by the Knights of Columbus. Later that year they decided to sell the property. On February 2, 1919, it was noted that the McMaster property was still in the hands of the K. of C. Then, on October 24, 1920, they purchased the Royce property and took possession of it on March 1, 1921.

This made me wonder when was the gym added? Well, on March 7, 1921, the Building Association of the K. of C. inspected the barn in the rear of the home and decided to connect it to the home for the Council Chambers. In January of 1922 it is noted that the Knights of Columbus

still occupied rooms in the Sawyer Block [where the present Vermont Transit bus station is located]. In July of 1922 it was decided to lease out the McMaster property. In 1929 G.E.C. Badlam purchased the McMaster property at 20-24 Merchants Row. [Remember that this is the man that moved the Curtis House, now Bob Tedesco's home, up Grove Street to make room for the Montgomery Ward Store.]

Although there was some discussion of building a gym and council hall in 1925, it was not until 1931 that construction of the new hall, consisting of a gym and banquet hall downstairs and council chambers upstairs, was begun. On October 14, 1931, the first meeting was held in the new building which was called the Knights of Columbus Community Center.

Many can remember the basketball games, roller skating, and dances that took place in this community center over the years. Isn't it funny how time can turn around and look toward again using this historic community center for a Boys and Girls Club?

If you'd like a challenge, remember something from someplace in your past and research how it came to be and what became of it. It's really fun!

It really amazes me sometimes how things suddenly appear to show that history repeats itself. Recently the Rutland Historical Society obtained copies of letters sent to H. Edward Dyer of North Clarendon. Captain Dyer was the commanding officer of Company A, which was the Rutland Company of the Vermont National Guard during the Spanish American War. The following excerpts are from a letter written by Lt. Wait Johnson. The letter is dated June 14, 1901 and Lt. Johnson was writing from Tabaco, Philippine Islands where he had been sent to quell the native rebel forces.

"...I will be able to send you or bring you direct a few of the weapons characteristic of this country. Already I have a generous collection of daggers, and bolos and the others I have many of in view. I have been in but two little "combats" since my arrival here and few of my arms were actually captured. Most of our work has been of the pacific order and at that business you know "Your uncle Bill is a howling success"! Shortly after we arrived I had a little fight. I had seven men with me and we fell in with what was later said to be a party of forty-four, but I cannot vouch for the number. It took place in a or rather on a hemp mountain."

"...just as an example of how our men shoot, at the outset, before we knew that we were very near the enemy, an outpost jumped up from the grass and started for the bushes about ten yards away from where he jumped us. Four of us fired at him" [later they found they had hit him and felt that they had done well under the surprise circumstances].

"...most of our time has been employed in administering oaths of allegiance to the "Googos". I tell you as a lawyer I am out of sight. Speaking of lawyer reminds me of someone....remember Sergeant Willard of the 3rd Cav.? Well, he is now a sergeant in C Company of my regiment. I met him in China for the first time to know him. It came about while I was detailed as counsel in three cases that were to be tried by General Court Martial...He was a witness in one of the cases and he looked very familiar to me. I asked him if he had not served in the 3rd Cav. at Ethan Allen and he said he had. He wanted to be remembered to all in "A Company" and you in particular."

"...I made my reputation as a lawyer for the defense on the three cases. The murder and rape cases were found not guilty and the robbery case I just gave up as the man was so blatantly guilty. However the first two cases were sufficient for since then I have had numerous requests from prisoners about to be tried to act as counsel for them."

"Just at present I am freed from that chore as I am serving in a one company post and I am commanding my company besides being Adjutant, Quartermaster, Commissary, Signal, Ordnance and Summary Court Officer. Just a nice little amount of work especially since I have no Commissary Sergeant and every bit of "paper work" in that office I do myself."..."A Major is in command here and about all he does is sign his name. All letters and endorsements are virtually left to me ...of course that is very gratifying to me coming from a man who has been in the service twenty-five years or so."

The letter is signed Wait C. Johnson.

An excerpt from a single page of a “lost” letter of the same time tells a little more of the reason for being in the Philippines at that time.

“....[The enemy] were surprised to see us form an Advance Guard or establish Outposts. Personally, I don’t consider that the officers of the Volunteer regiments in the Philippines are especially efficient. When I see you I will explain our plans of attack, our method of “taking towns” without firing a shot etc.etc. but I will not attempt to write further on the subject. Sincerely yours, C. Wilkie Louis”

Why does this appear to be history repeating itself? Well, recently U.S. Forces were sent to the Philippines to aid in tracking down terrorists in the same Philippine wilds! To have these letters show up at this particular time is also, to me, an amazing event.

FEB 6, 2002

Tidbits From Then and Now

Old newspapers can be lots of fun to read. There are all sorts of interesting little fillers and the regular news of local happenings are in what I would call capsule form. Then there are full pages of some of the speeches given on the Federal level of government. Even local government matters can take up a full newspaper page. Although you can learn a lot about what went on and how laws, rules and regulations came about by reading the "big stuff", it is the little bits and pieces that are really enjoyable.

Even today, thievery and taxes are in the news, but it seems that back in the 1860s the newspapers had a way of reporting things with a sense of "humor". The following are just some interesting examples of such reporting.

"A NEW DODGE.-- The owners of the stolen pants and cotton cloth, advertised by the Sheriff in yesterday morning's Herald, came forward and obtained their property yesterday, while the person charged with the theft was examined before Justice Smith, and committed for trial by the County Court. The thief is an Irishwoman, an old offender, by the name, we believe, of C _____. Her manner of obtaining the stolen pants was more ingenious than delicate. She entered a store on Merchant's Row on Tuesday, informed a modest clerk that she had lost one of her gar--elastics, and requested him to give her a string to substitute in its place, as her stocking gave her much trouble. The obliging clerk complied, and she went behind the counter for the avowed purpose of fastening it in its place. The string, it appears, was really used to tie the pants, which she contrived there to lay hands on, inside her hoop-skirt. She pawned the captured property at another store, whose proprietors, supposing it stolen, notified the Sheriff, and thus she was detected." [3/19/1863]

"NOT THAT THEY LOVE NEWSPAPERS LESS, BUT LAGER BEER MORE.--The House Committee on Ways and Means has made no report on the repeal of the paper duties, but it has decided to reduce the tax on lager beer from one dollar to sixty cents a barrel. This is showing a tender consideration for Teutonic stomachs, and an utter disregard for American brains."

"Members of Congress seem to take a malicious pleasure in imposing burdens on the press. The paper, ink and type they use are heavily taxed; their advertising receipts are taxed; they are taxed as manufacturers; and finally, if the publisher has any income left, that is taxed. Taxation is piled on taxation, and to crown the whole, there is an evident indisposition to remove an absolute prohibitory duty on paper, out of regard for an interest which has combined to coin money, by increasing the cost of every newspaper and book printed in the country" [3/6/1868]

Another "tidbit" that I anxiously share with you is the naming of Alfrecha Road which runs off Creek Road. Most people have the impression that it is an Indian name, but some who were raised in Rutland and vicinity can tell the real story. George Chaffee owned a small railroad freight station in that location in the late 19th and early 20th Century and he named the road by combining the names of his three children: Alice, Frederick and Charlotte, therefore Alfrecha! It's really fascinating finding things from the past.

FEB 13, 2002

Tidbits From Then and Now

Valentine's Day!! Where did it come from? Whose idea was this? Has it gotten out of hand? Not really, when you are aware of the meaning of it all.

Many, many years ago young men were trained in "armies" to fight for a particular ruler and protect that ruler's possessions [and possibly to gain more possessions for him]. One particular ruler forbade these young men to marry. A man named Valentine tried to help the young couples and the ruler became so enraged that he put Valentine in prison. Many of the young people as well as children in the village visited Valentine and brought him food. One particular little girl, who was blind, brought him food and visited with him quite often. On one occasion, when Valentine thanked her, she was suddenly able to see. She sent him a note of thanks telling him about her returned sight and he replied with a note sending his love and signing it "Your Valentine".

What started out as a "caring" note by someone who was helping couples, as well as other individuals, grew to a way of individuals letting others know that they cared. Today we have grown to sending cards and gifts to little ones, big ones and anyone else we wish to remind that someone cares for them as well as going back to the original message for couples, pledging their love for each other.

Hopefully, Valentine's Day will continue forever!

FEB 20, 2002

Rutland Daily Herald, January 14, 1909, published an article describing a book entitled "A Descriptive Sketch of the Present State of Vermont" which included a series of letters written by J.A. Graham, L.L.D. Mr. Graham was a lieutenant colonel in the service of the state and in later life lived in London. The letters were addressed to His Grace, The Duke of Montrose. This particular letter describes Rutland in 1797.

Rutland is a shire town and capital of the county of the same name. It lies on Otter Creek between Killington and Ira mountains. It is distant from Bennington about sixty miles and is divided into two parishes called East and West Rutland. On the East side is the main street, three miles in length the center of which for near a mile is straight and level.

In the center is a square containing about five English acres known by the name of Federal Square. In front of this on the East side stands a new Court House built of wood. [The writer is very critical of the bad taste and want of judgement in the architecture of this particular building] In this are held the sessions of the General Assembly (established here and at Windsor alternately) the District Court under the Federal Government, the Supreme Court of the State, the Court of Common Pleas, and the Court of Probate for the District of Rutland. The Gaol [jail] stands about one hundred rods [1/3 of a mile] South of the Federal Square on the west side of the main street. [Almost across from the Chaffee Gallery] About half a mile North of the Court House is a neat church. [East Parish Church] On each side of the Square and Main Street are built some handsome houses, particularly on east side are several which draw the attention of all travelers. [The largest of these buildings was the old Lindholm Block]

The upland is filled with lime stone, the lowlands abound with clay. The intervale lands on the Creek are of a deep rich soil and produce excessive crops of hay and Indian corn. The uplands produce wheat, rye, oats, barley, beans, peas, hemp and flax. About half a mile from the Court House on the main street, a silver mine has lately been discovered said to be of great value. There is a copper mine in the vicinity and there are great quantities of iron ore near Rutland. There are two great falls of water there known by the names of Mead's and Sutherland's Falls on each of which there are corn and saw mills. Mr. Osgood in the year 1794 erected on Otter Creek the best corn mills in the country. Here also is a printing office, an oil mill, a hat manufactory, a large brewery and a manufactory of nails. The water is conveyed from the mountains to the town in wooden pipes laid about two feet underground. Every material for building except glass and paint are made here. The principal timber is pine, maple, hemlock and birch.

Pot and pearl ash are made in great quantities. The wolf and bear often descend from the East mountains and do much damage destroying the sheep and corn. The value of land is from twenty shillings to five pounds per acre. The number of inhabitants, about sixteen hundred, emigrated from England, Ireland, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and the State of New York.

On the west side of the town the farmers are better husbandmen than those on the east, and raise the best wheat, butter and cheese, great quantities of which they send off to foreign markets.

Almost sounds like Mr. Graham was trying to sell "OUR TOWN" to His Grace, the Duke!

FEB 27, 2002

Tidbits From Then and Now

On April 2, 1868, a destructive fire erupted when a kerosene lamp burst at the Franklin House on South Main Street. The fire was discovered at approximately 1:30 AM. The alarm was sounded and two streams of water were soon poured upon the burning building. In spite of this effort, the whole main building was a mass of flame which connected to the next block occupied by W.H.B. Owen and would have continued south if Dr. Ross' dwelling had not been protected with blankets, well saturated with water.

The County Courthouse on the north side of the hotel caught fire. The fire continued to the wooden building north of the Courthouse where it was stopped by an alley some fifteen to twenty feet wide. No better time could have been selected for a fire, as not a breath of air fanned the flames.

The Franklin House was filled with guests and boarders, approximately 200 persons. Most were boarders and the rest were attending the Rutland County Court which was in session.

"It was reported that eighty-three rats ranging in size from a kitten to a black-and-tan terrier--probably they belonged to the County jail from their sleekness and general appearance--were seen issuing from amid the ruins, and striking off in a north-easterly direction."

The County Courthouse, besides the Courtroom, was used as offices for the County Clerk, Judge of Probate and W.H.Smith [Deputy County Clerk]. Through the extraordinary exertions of the County Clerk and Judge of Probate, aided by local citizens, all the papers connected with these two offices were safely removed. Mr. Smith's law library was removed in good order.

"Two eminently known lawyers, attending the County Court came down from the second story [of the Franklin House] on a board, being men of more than average avoirdupois [they were well overweight] and rivals in the political arena, their safe landing was hailed with delight. Doubts were entertained as to the strength of their frail support. It is whispered that one mounted a codfish--which he was lucky enough to win at the entertainment at the Town Hall last week, and thus mounted reached the ground safely. The other probably can tell whether the board was planed or not--we will not say."

Two notices in the same paper indicate that the County Clerk and the Probate office were moved temporarily to Mr. Carpenter's building, just north of the Baptist Church [corner of South Main and East Washington Streets].

"Too much praise cannot be awarded to our firemen for their conduct at the fire. Through their untiring and well directed efforts much valuable property was saved, and the fire kept within proper bounds."

1968 was a year that kept the firemen very busy. From January through December, there were 31 major fires, nearly one every weekend--some arson, some not, but all played a major role in the "changing face" of Rutland.

MAR 6, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

From March 6, 1902

A WORD TO WEEKLY READERS

The Weekly Herald would like to receive from any of its readers short, timely communications on subjects of interest to the farmers of Vermont. Such contributions will be carefully edited and prepared for publication. If any of its readers desire any information on any subject of general interest the Weekly Herald will endeavor to secure it for them if they will make their wants known. [I don't think that today 100 years later any newspaper is lacking for material to fill their paper. Also, there are a lot fewer farmers now than there were back then!]

The Herald has received this communication: "Men and women play cards for money and it is called gambling. Men and women play cards for prizes and it is called amusement. Will someone who is in a position to know, kindly inform one who is anxious to learn, just where the line between the two is drawn?" **We are not in a position to know and will have to pass the question on to the dealer.** [Again a sense of humor is found in the old newspapers. And we always thought our ancestors were totally humorless and straightforward!]

Of course this same date was the day after voting 100 years ago as noted in this little tidbit:

Rutland Again Democratic

The democrats are again in power in this city, so far as the executive department is concerned. There was a full vote and their entire municipal ticket was elected. The republicans elected four aldermen and the democrats one. The challenge of the democrats to fight this year on party lines proved a winning card. Rutland has had 10 mayors and three of them have been democrats. Here is abundant opportunity for members of the G.O.P. in this vicinity to practice the graces of the spirit, particularly resignation. [Humor again!]

And to end on a minor celebration reported on March 6, 1902:

The ninth and last in the series of old folks' dances this season was held at Grand Army Hall Friday evening. There were 40 couples present. Music was furnished by Rielle's orchestra. Refreshments were served about 10:15 o'clock by Mrs. F.H. Baldwin in the Woman's Relief Corps hall. [Gee, the Rutland Historical Society has held Big Band dances for the last four years for nine weeks during the summer months. We even served punch or lemonade. And people wondered what it had to do with history!!]

Hope you got out to VOTE. As you know, every vote counts!

MAR 13, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

According to the 1867 Rutland Village Directory, Daniel Verder was the proprietor of a bakery and fancy goods store at 40 Merchants Row [a wooden house around the corner from Center Street].

His sons George H. and Herbert L. the clerks in the store. This property was involved in a fire in 1868 which changed the face of downtown Rutland.

The following is an excerpt from an article appearing in the Rutland Herald, September 30, 1869

Citizens watched with interest the progress of the work on the spacious and elegant three story building being erected by Daniel Verder on the Southeast corner of Wales and Center Streets. The building will be one of the finest local business blocks.

The building is 76 feet long, 40 feet wide, three stories high exclusive of the cellar basement. It is thoroughly finished from top to bottom and is probably the most complete establishment of the kind anywhere to be found. In the second and third stories are four conveniently arranged tenements with water, gas and modern improvements. The first story is exclusively appropriated to the bakery business.

On the front corner of the first story is a sales room neatly finished with ash, black walnut, etc., of the natural color, with counters, show cases, shelves, and drawers, tastefully and conveniently arranged. The balance of the first story is mostly thrown into one room in which is the machinery propelled by steam, used for the manufacture of crackers, bread, hot rolls, cakes of various kinds, etc.

There are three ovens, each of which will bake 1,700 crackers at a time. The daily product of this establishment is from 35 to 40 barrels of crackers, exclusive of bread, cakes, etc.

In 1880, Herbert L. and George H. Verder were operating the bakery under the name of H.L. Verder & Co. By 1884 Thomas Lyon was the proprietor of Lyons Steam Bakery located at the corner of Center and Wales and George Verder was a baker there. Daniel Verder, the original owner of the steam bakery died in 1885. The 1891-92 City Directory shows that Goodrich & Hoag (successors to T.J. Lyon) owned the bakery at that point. and George Verder died in December of 1892.

In 1868, William Metzger came to Rutland and was employed in the furniture store of T.S. Gilson until 1876 when he opened an upholstery shop at 27 Evelyn Street. In 1895 he took his sons, Charles A. and William E. into partnership and after being burned out, he moved the upholstery business to the Grimm building on Pine Street for about one year.

In 1901 William Metzger moved his business to the Verder building. By this time he had enlarged the business from upholstery to buntings, banners and decorative accessories. The senior William Metzger died unexpectedly on August 30, 1904. His sons William and Charles continued the business at the same location into the mid-90's.

Today, the building is occupied by the Bennington Rutland Opportunity Council and once again it is providing services of food and clothing to the residents of Rutland..

This is another example of one of Rutland's older buildings returning to its original purpose. It has been said that remnants of the big old oven doors are still visible today.

MAR 20, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Many inquiries come to the Rutland Historical Society regarding the old street names. From time to time various streets or sections of streets have been known by names other than those applied to them at the present time. The Rutland City Public Works Department has provided a list of street name changes to which this article is indebted

Jump into a time machine--travel back to old Rutland. Land on Green Street--where are you? Walk down Mechanic Street--where are you? Dance along Broadway--where are you? The answers can be found below.

Aloedia Street --now Hillcrest Road
Bates Street--now Curtis Avenue
Blanchard Avenue--now School Street
Bonvue Avenue--now Grandview Terrace
Broadway--now Strongs Avenue
Cain Street--now Crescent Street [Grove to Baxter]
Canterbury Court--now Newport Drive
Causeway Street--now East Street
Cherry Street--(shown on some old maps as Brown Street)
Cheney Street--now Crescent Street (Church Street - N. Main)
Clark Street--now Hopkins Street-between Strongs Avenue & Railroad
Creek Road--now Dorr Drive
Cross Street [now a part of Meadow Street]
Edson Alley--now Willow Street
Fairview Street--now Dana Avenue
Field Street--now Coolidge Avenue
Garden Street--now Library Avenue & Kendall Avenue (Grove to N. Main)
Gateway Road--now West Street (West at City Line)
Green Street--now Killington Avenue
Greeno Road--now Grove Street
Harrington Avenue--(Deeds about 1880 call it Stratton Road)
Keenan Road--now Perkins Road
Kelly Road--now Ripley Road
Laurel Lane--now Durham Avenue
Liberty Street--East end of East Center Street
Locust Street--now Shadow Lane
Long Street--now Spruce Street
Maiden Lane--now Wood Avenue
Mechanic Street--now Convent Avenue
Mineral Street--now Library Avenue (Baxter Street to Pine Street)
Northeast Drive (the piece running East/West now Lamontagne)
North Perkins Avenue--now North Street (Grove to No. Main Street)
Perkins Avenue--now Crescent Street (Grove to N. Main Street)
Phillips Avenue--now Porter Place
Pine Avenue--now Preville Avenue

River Street (on some old maps included Madison Street)
School Street--now Wood Avenue (at one time there were two School Streets)
Sioux Place--now Mahoney Avenue
Spring Street--now State Street
State Street--(old street name for Columbian Avenue)
Tater Street--now McKinley Avenue [Rutland Town]
Union Street (once included Freight Street) [from Union Street to Evelyn Street]
Vermont Street--now Kendall Avenue
Victor Place (portion south of Brook renamed Nicole Place)

Would you believe this article was inspired by inquiries that come to the Rutland Historical Society. Hope you might enjoy finding these street names as much as I did!

MAR 27, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland horsemen talked about having a speedway and they even knew where they wanted to put it according to a Rutland Herald article on April 10, 1902.

An effort was made by some prominent horsemen in the city and vicinity to have the West Creek Road below Dorr's bridge improved and converted into a speedway. The project had not assumed definite proportions, but the idea of the scheme met with approval, and there was a prospect that the men in this section who owned speedy road horses, of whom there were several, were united to push the matter to a successful end.

The strip of road in question was level for about three-quarters of a mile south of the bridge, and for several years was kept in the best of condition by employees at the old Baxter farm. The road was smooth, well drained and topped with a springy loam, which made an excellent place to speed a horse. However, for many years it had been worked like other country roads, the superfluous dirt being scraped into the center and gradually worn down, and at the time of the proposal was not a good place for fast driving.

The idea of those interested in making a speedway was to again level the road, finish it with the proper soil and keep it in good condition. The men estimated that with the city's help about \$200 by private subscription would be sufficient to make a desirable speedway. Several men agreed to share the expense, and there was the possibility, if sufficient interest was aroused, of a driving club being formed by the subscribers.

The road was about four tracks wide and was measured for the half and quarter mile by posts. If it were made into a speedway, certain hours of each day would probably be set apart for trials of speed between local favorites. Among the men interested in the project were Wayne Bailey of North Main Street and E.L. Goodrich of the Bardwell House.

An effort was being made by parties from Whitehall, NY to lease from the Rutland Driving Park Association the course which the association controlled south of the city. The proposed lessees contemplated including Rutland in a racing circuit which would consist of several New York and Vermont towns. They planned to hold two or three horse meets there during the season. It was stated that if the project was successful, it would ensure some interesting races at the fair grounds the following year.

The association held a special meeting at the Berwick House to see what action would be taken in the matter. Wayne Bailey and Henry O. Carpenter were appointed as a committee to take full charge of the matter and decide whether or not it would be best to lease the course to the Whitehall men. The power of the committee in this matter was unlimited.

The driving park association had done little or nothing with the race course for a few years, and many of the members felt that if they could profitably lease it and have it properly maintained no better plan could be pursued.

Further research is needed to find out if the project ever came about!

APR 3, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

With the changing job market and people being more mobile than in the past, many times you will hear that dedication to one's job is just not there today. If it is present, there is always the possibility that security is not as sure as it once was either. A good example of dedication is found in the following excerpt taken from a clipping someone saved from a Boston Herald dated February 24, 1909.

Rutland Station Ablaze --Girl Operator Stays at Post While Building Burns; \$10,000 Loss.

Rutland, VT, Feb. 23--While the flames roared 10 feet above them, and while two companies of firemen poured streams on the burning Union Station, Miss Alice Nourse, telephone operator and the train dispatchers stayed calmly at their posts.

The station, which is used by the Rutland and Delaware & Hudson Railroads, was damaged by the fires which started in a store room in the attic, probably from a cigarette stub or matches carelessly thrown aside by a clerk. The station is a three-story brick building and the upper floor, which was used to store all the records of the Rutland Railroad for a half century back, was burned out. There are several railroad officials' offices on the second floor and the waiting room is on the floor below.

The damage by water was heavy, but the fixtures and current books were saved by a brigade of 50 men from the railroad shops nearby. They had been summoned by Supt. S.S. Colton of the Rutland Railroad. The fire spread rapidly in the piles of papers which filled the garret [attic]. The 30 clerks and railroad officials on the second floor knew nothing of the fire until the floor above them was a mass of flames. They rushed to leave the building.

The operators, already mentioned, stayed behind and received and sent messages until there was no longer any object in remaining.

Call Fireman W.H. Blanchard was overcome by smoke and burned slightly. The firemen saved the lower floors of the station after a hard two hour fight. Traffic was not interrupted by the fire, but the railroads were forced to use Western Union wires to dispatch their trains. Temporary quarters were established and the work of repairing the depot was begun immediately. The station was built soon after 1850 by the old Rutland & Burlington Railroad. In 1904 the Rutland Railroad spent \$15,000 remodeling the station.

Over the years, Rutland has certainly had its share of burning buildings. In spite of that, quick rebuilding of essential buildings by hard working people DEDICATED to their hometown have made Rutland one of the nicest places to live. Sometimes we grow too used to a place and don't see or appreciate the beauty that visitors see when they come to our city.

APR 10, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

From the Rutland Herald dated 6/17/1912

Police Still Rat Riot

Women Scamper as Animal is Loosed From Garbage Can

A large sized rat created a small sized panic on Merchants Row Saturday afternoon, and before it was finally apprehended it achieved the distinction of being one of the few rats to attract police attention in Rutland. The little animal made its first appearance from a basket of rubbish which was being removed from the club rooms in the Savings Bank building, and taken away by a truckman. It was shaken loose as the waste was being transferred to the truck wagon, and immediately celebrated its freedom by a wild scamper across the street toward the depot. It was a proceeding shrilly objected to by several women who had been holding a sedate conversation in that neighborhood.

One woman who was half way across the street raced for safety, and seemed to be harboring a wild idea of climbing a nearby pole, when she was stopped by the reassuring, stentorian voice of Chief of Police T.C. Elworth.

Before that official could act, however, an itinerant bead merchant travelling with the circus had risen to the occasion and plunged wildly after the peace breaker. He drove it into a mud puddle and dispatched it with the heel of his boot. Only when he had made an exhibition of the corpse did the feminine contingent recover hope of life. So, the dove of peace perched again upon Merchants Row.

I had found this article and thought you might enjoy it and was considering the proper time to print it. Would you believe that today, April 1st, the noontime news reported that because of the warm winter we had, rats would be more prevalent this year and had already begun appearing in public. (NO JOKE!) So, I guess this is the right time. Also, be watchful, you never know what you might run into!

APR 17, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

As early as the 1790's, Main Street in Rutland was served by a piped water system. Gershom Cheney, proprietor of the Franklin House, had wooden pipes laid from a large spring in Mendon 2 1/2 miles to the Village.

The wooden pipes, called "pump logs", were actually logs with a three inch hole bored lengthwise through the center. They were tapered so that one end fit into an enlargement of the hole on the next log and held together with a metal band. [The Rutland Historical Society has a portion of one of the log pipes on display at the Society].

The water was piped to a "water post" tapped by a spigot and was installed in front of each subscriber's home. It was necessary to go outside the home to obtain the water. In November of 1800 there were forty two subscribers and the Rutland Aqueduct Company was incorporated to run the system. By 1856 there were 250 families connected and complaints began to mount because of the inadequate supply of water.

Because of this inadequate supply of water, in May of 1857 a disastrous fire destroyed several homes and businesses on West Street. It was decided that the Village would take over the operation of the water system. By August of 1857 the Aqueduct Company leased the aqueduct to the Village for a term of one thousand years.

A small dam was constructed creating what is known as the "Gleason Reservoir". A storage reservoir was also built on Woodstock Avenue [near the site of the Godnick Center]. After another major fire on April 3, 1868, Rutland turned to East Creek for a better supply of water. By 1878, a gravel and stone "infiltration gallery" was constructed in the bank of East Creek near the junction of Mendon Stream. A sufficient flow of water could not be provided and so it was decided to draw water directly from East Creek. The quality of this water became a concern and in 1881 a channel was dug from Mendon Stream to two small storage reservoirs and the use of East Creek was discontinued. In 1891 a larger reservoir was built at a higher elevation and iron water pipes were laid to the city and the use of the Woodstock Avenue reservoir was discontinued.

In 1909, there was an outbreak of typhoid and it was discovered that the outbreak was a result of pollution in Mendon Stream. Disinfection of the water supply with "bleaching powder" began in the fall of 1910 and the outbreak had ended.

A Rutland Herald headline of June 9, 1912 states: Letter of Resignation Has Been Handed to City Clerk H. B. Whittier--Attempts to Improve Water Supply Unaccepted.

Mr. H. B. Whittier
City Clerk
Rutland, VT

Dear Sir:

In March 1911, when I was elected mayor, I accepted the office believing that I could be of some service to the city in the purification of its water supply. After several months of investigation and acting upon the recommendation of some of the best experts in the country, I presented to the voters, plans for purifying and increasing the available supply. These propositions have been twice voted down.

The water situation imperatively calls for a remedy. I have tried to the best of my ability to point one out. [a filtration system] My plans being unaccepted and my efforts unavailing, I trust something may be done to safeguard the health of the citizens. Under the circumstances, however, I hereby resign the office of mayor of the city of Rutland. Will you please notify the President of the Board of Aldermen, and the heads of the different departments of the city government, of this my resignation.

Yours respectfully,
Percival W. Clement

Disinfection with chlorine gas began in July of 1916 and continued until 1995. On June 3, 1947, the East Pittsford dam burst. The earth was eroded and washed out sections of the main water pipes, leaving the City without water for many days. As an emergency measure, water was pumped out of Tenney Brook and into the water system through a fire hydrant on North Main Street.

The City had been considering constructing a larger reservoir that would be higher and southeast of the 1891 reservoir. The Davis Reservoir was constructed in 1954 and Mendon Stream became the primary source of water for the City. All other old reservoirs were discontinued at that time.

Today, the water supply for Rutland City consists of a 90 million gallon reservoir located off Post Road in Rutland Town, near the Mendon Town line. Several safeguards were designed into the new filtration facility to address the problem of pollution. A 2 1/2 million gallon storage tank was constructed. If there is a problem with the reservoir, water from Mendon Stream can be piped directly to the filtration plant. If Mendon Stream becomes polluted, water can be pumped from East Creek to the Filter plant.

The concern/dream of Percival W. Clement was met in 1995! Enjoy the benefits!

APR 24, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

February 12, 1947

Revamped Rutland Junior College Team to Meet Bay Staters

Hard hit by mid-year exams that sent more than half of their number to the academic gallows of ineligibility, a revamped Rutland Junior College hoop group embarks for North Adams, Mass, this afternoon where their 8 o'clock argument with the Massachusetts State Teachers quintet claims top billing in the evening's basketball festivities.

When the smoke of battle cleared over the first meeting of the two clubs earlier in the current court campaign, Coach Les Mitiguy's leather-tossers were on the right side of a 47-39 score. Tonight the Bay Staters lay out the welcome mat. They are determined to prevent a duplication of the feat and the down-to-the-wire finish, indicated by that first conflict, should give both cheering sections a busy evening.

Ted Pawlaczk, whose one-handed stabs at the iron ring have kept scorekeepers busy all season, will start at right forward for the locals tonight while Bill Seward, sharp-shooting goal grabber returning from the RJC sick list, will get the nomination for the left forward berth.

George Clifford, one of the few members of the Blue and Gold five to approach skyscraper proportions, will be the man to outjump in the starting pivot slot for the locals tonight, with Don Walker, eagle-eyed sparkplug of Blue and Gold guard play, and Jim Keith, who sticks to opposing offensive stars like a leech, will get the nod for first string action in the RJC back court.

Joe Welch, who has been snagging rebounds at practice sessions this week as though he owned the pill, will be on hand for reserve duty as forward or guard. Bill Rutzen, co-captain and forward on a C.Y.O. quintet in New York, will bolster the locals in the point production department, while Charlie Merrill, reports as a guard from Homer Academy in Homer, NY, Hugh Cheney, a center from Mount St. Joseph's Academy, Maurice Mintzer, a guard from Rutland High School and Stanley Brzoza, a guard from West Rutland High, round out the 11-man Blue and Gold cage crew scheduled to make the Bay State invasion tonight.

The starting lineup of the Adams Mass. State Teacher's College's Coach Bill Malone will see "Bud" Little or Minardi at the right forward post, John Murray at left forward, high-scoring Lou Parisien in the pivot position and Dean and either "Doc" Thaute or John Boisvert in the rear court spots. Rondera, a forward, and Gazzaniga, a North Adams defensive stalwart, will also be ready for action in reserve roles.

Two days later, it was reported: Stripped of any potential power by mid-year exams, which sent seven of its regulars to the showers for the rest of the season, RJC fell to a strong, tall and heavy Massachusetts State Teachers aggregation 37-19.

Fifty-five years later, things haven't changed too much. No pass the exam-no play!!

may 1, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

On October 26, 1931, the 17-mile stretch of cement highway leading from Rutland to the Leicester line was formally opened. Gov. Wilson, other state officials and representatives of Rutland City and various town governments took part. The formation of the parade began at 9am on North Main Street near Woodstock Avenue. At 9:30, the line of cars started out for Pittsford. At 10, the parade arrived at Pittsford and was joined by the Pittsford group. At 10:30 the group arrived in Brandon and was met by mounted members of the Brandon Horse Association and was escorted through the village.

At 11 o'clock the paraders arrived back in Brandon, after going to the Leicester line, and the speaking program opened. Addresses were given by Gov. Wilson, Congressman John E. Weeks, Highway Engineer H. E. Sargent, Mayor Arthur W. Perkins and President John C. Fox of the State Chamber of Commerce. At 12:15 pm, there was an informal dinner at the Brandon Inn.

We all know that this is Route 7 North. How many times have you seen a bumper sticker or heard someone say that traveling on Rutland 7 is dangerous. Is it really dangerous or did it just get a bad reputation [curse] on the day that it was opened.

An article in the newspaper stated: AUTO RAMS TRUCK AS PARADE STOPS

Two young men were slightly injured during the road-opening celebration parade in Brandon yesterday morning when a truck in which they were riding was struck from the rear by a car. The long line of cars came to an abrupt stop when some of the horses, which were being ridden by escorts, became unruly. The truck halted so suddenly that the driver of the car was unable to stop the car quick enough to avoid striking the tail board of a truck being driven by Roy N. Berry, Boy Scout executive.

The boys were dressed as Daniel Boone and an Indian and were at the rear of the truck. Both boys were tossed about by the impact. It was thought at first that one of the boy's legs was broken but Dr. E.E. Briggs of Brandon, after an examination, declared that no bones were fractured.

And the stories continue to this day. When you travel Route 7 you are taking a risk. Fact, Fiction or Curse?!!

MAY 8, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Teachers meetings have been a regular occurrence in October for many years. After reading the results of this meeting in 1931, one has to wonder if things have really changed over the course of 70 years.

October 8, 1931

Pupils will Close Books Till Tuesday

Because of the state teachers' meeting at Burlington on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and Columbus Day on Monday, Rutland Public School pupils will have a four day holiday. A large number of teachers are attending the conference as several prominent educators are among the speakers. Special group meetings will be held for elementary, intermediate, high school and rural teachers.

October 29, 1931

Find Many Causes For Why Students Fail In Lessons

Reasons as to "Why the Student Fails" were discussed at a monthly meeting of the Rutland High School Parent-Teacher association held at the school auditorium yesterday afternoon. Miss Elsie M. Trevitt, who attended the convention of the State Parent-Teachers held recently at St. Johnsbury, reported that in a talk given by Paul D. Moody, president of Middlebury College, it was stated that college students fail for mental and moral reasons. He also named lack of preparation, ill-health, too much attention to extra-curricula activities, and failure to become adjusted to college life, as further reasons why the college student does not succeed.

Other speakers on the subject were Mrs. John F. Moloney and F. Harris Leavitt, who pointed out that frequent failure is due to poor scholarship, and even though the student is naturally intelligent, he fails when he does not do the work required. They agreed that standards should be lowered to take care of the slower students, and considered that one to two hours each night should be devoted to study.

Plans were also discussed for increasing the Parent-Teacher membership which now totals about 100 to a number nearer to the mark that the size of the school would indicate, which would be approximately 700.

There is still talk of lowering standards, upping standards, changing standards and even that there should be two hours devoted to studying in the evening. Extra-curricular activities, family activities and even family living situations have certainly changed over these 70 years. Then, of course, you have a greater number of students in all the schools. Added to that are the many children who are advanced in their education and can become more easily bored by lowering standards. Many feel that because of their superior ability, "they can handle it." Can we really ever solve education problems?

MAY 15, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

I have occasionally mentioned that I can never tell where I will find a topic of interest to write about. People have called me with ideas, the old newspapers are definitely a source (but can be such absorbing reading that I can get sidetracked reading all the interesting things). The following subject was presented to me when I had my hair done at the Talk of the Town. Donna had come across what looked like a postcard size "blotter" with an ad about "The Spy", apparently given out by Higgins Drug Co. in 1900. Donna wanted to know if it was a real artifact. Of course that got me investigating and the following is the result.

Rutland Herald, February 22, 1900

"The Spy", a four-act patriotic comedy drama, will be presented tonight and tomorrow night at the Opera House under the auspices of Ann Story Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, for the benefit of the Continental Hall Fund [Washington DC].

The committee in charge of the entertainment are Mrs. M.J. Francisco, Mrs. N.K. Chaffee and Mrs. C.S. Caverly. The costumes arrived yesterday and a full-dress rehearsal was held last evening at The Opera House. Another rehearsal will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock. The doors will be open at 7:45 o'clock this evening and the curtain will rise at 8:30 o'clock. Special electric cars on the main line and both belt lines will leave the Opera House entrance at the close of each evening's performance [carriages could be ordered for 10:45 P.M.]. A special detail from the fire department with chemical apparatus will be present in the hall each evening.

The files of the DAR at the Rutland Historical Society also held a program and this picture of the cast of "The Spy".

Really must say that research can be a lot of fun!

MAY 22, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

I have mentioned the Rutland Business College on occasion and find it fascinating that back in February of 1900 they had "new" machines which would save them time in stenography and duplicating. There were fifty students attending the day school and thirty attending evening sessions who would be able to work these machines.

Good results were obtained from the touch typewriting system which was introduced at the beginning of the spring term and six machines were in use on February 22, 1900. A new letter press was added to the school apparatus for the use of advanced students in stenography and it was planned to buy an Edison mimeograph for duplicating purposes.

The Rutland Historical Society is in possession of the Edison mimeograph in this picture. It is amazing that over the past 100 years typewriters advanced from manual to electric and then to computers. Stenographers advanced from pads and pencils to machines that have shorthand symbols then to tape recordings. Then from mimeograph to those "ugly" purple ink copies to copy machines and even to CD's that can copy music, pictures or any other thing that a computer can "burn" onto a disc.

Come to think of it, how about sewing machines. From hand sewing [everything!] to the pedal sewing machine to electric. Now you can even get a machine that does the embroidery--just set the pattern and thread and let the machine [computerized] do the rest. Yesterday there was a report of a machine that you step into and it analyzes your body and you can get a perfectly fitted pattern for yourself or a client. Seamstresses are saying it makes the hobby of sewing a lot easier!

Oh the wonders of this world!

Tidbits from Then and Now
June 6, 1902--Rutland Weekly Herald

MAY 29, 2002

School Children Observe Memorial Day

The pre-memorial day exercises which were held Thursday [May 29] in the public schools of the city were well attended and the programs in the different schools were successfully carried out. In most cases the pupils of two school rooms united in the exercises, the room in which they were held being elaborately decorated with flags, ferns and flowers. The children sang patriotic songs and gave appropriate recitations in a very creditable manner. Delegations of veterans from the Grand Army post and of women from Roberts Relief corps visited the different schools and a number made short addresses to the pupils.

The children of the parochial schools met in St. Peter's hall and sang patriotic songs. Addresses were made by Rev. T.J. Gaffney and by Commander John A. Sheldon of Roberts Post.

The exercises at the Park Street building were varied in a pleasant manner by the presentation to the school, by the Park Street patrons' society, of a handsome framed portrait of the late President William McKinley. [McKinley was shot by an assassin and died eight days later on September 14, 1901]. In this building the pupils of all the school rooms gathered in the large hall and gave their songs, recitations and the flag salute. Edward Bowman, representing the Grand Army post, spoke, after which the portrait, which stood on a flag-draped easel, was unveiled and presented to the school. The portrait, which is a large half-tone photograph framed in oak, will be hung in the upper hall of the building. The members of the patrons' society are fitting up a room in the Park Street building for their own use. They have a set of 10 books, a bookcase and a library table already.

Today, how do we celebrate Memorial Day here in Rutland? The day has been changed, for the convenience workers, to a long weekend, Thoughts of warmer days and vacations are in progress. Do any of the youth today know why they have all this freedom or the sacrifices that were made to get it?

Celebrate your freedom on Memorial Day and thank your "lucky stars" [and stripes] and remember all the men and women in your past [and present] that have made all this possible for you.

Tidbits from Then and Now

June 5, 2002

With all the telephone choices we have today, it's a wonder we know which kind of service we want. You find one that seems just right for your purposes and along comes another ad for you to investigate. Is this one better than the one you have? All kinds of gimmicks are used to convince you that you have to change so that you can have more "change" in your budget.

You're not alone. Even back in 1902 competition appeared to help the public have better prices, or at least they thought so. Some did not feel that the competition was all that good for the general public as is noted in this newspaper tidbit

Something About Competing Telephone Systems

Canvassers were working in Rutland for some days soliciting subscriptions to the stock of a company which proposes to construct a local telephone system in this city. Of course competition is the life of trade. This is true in private business enterprises. But a telephone service is based upon municipal concessions, and in this view of the case the question comes under that class of enterprises which may be called quasi public institutions.

It is an issue of long standing whether a municipality is justified in issuing duplicate charters to companies competing for the privilege of serving the public. Two firms may legitimately compete in trade whether the commodities are boots or Bibles, but the moment the traffic involves a franchise from the municipality, is a moment that a broad question of public policy is involved. Is it public policy for a city to grant special privileges that will tend to enhance the price of a service to the inhabitants of that city? It goes without saying that two rival plants servicing a city with telephonic accommodations cannot perform this service as economically as one plant can, unless the one plant is exploited with utter disregard for the interests of its patrons. If the New England Telephone and Telegraph company is exacting something for nothing, then Rutland would be justified, in spite of the economic absurdity of employing two tools to do one thing, in competing against itself by way of dual franchises. It thus becomes a question of fact rather than a theory of government. We are not aware that the company which daily contributes to the convenience of our business men is an oppressive conspiracy against the public. We have not made any special investigation into the matter nor have we received any complaints from the patrons of the company. Even if the patrons of the established company have a grievance, a duplicate plant should be the last and not the first remedy employed. The experience of other cities can be profitably studied by us in this sort of quesiton. The cities that attempted to secure better telephone service by introducing a competing telephone system are beginning to realize the folly of their course. The opinion prevailed some years ago that two telephone companies would reduce the price and give better telephone service, but is has been learned by experience that it not only doubles the expense to the people, but is an awful nuisance.

Now, don't you just wonder what would have happened if there hadn't been some competing companies for this very essential service? Has it made life easier or just a little more confusing, (budget wise)! Imagine, it was even considered a nuisance to deal with back in 1902!

#154

Tidbits from Then and Now

Thursday, March 28, 1901

June 12, 2002

City Hall Burned

The Rutland City Hall was practically destroyed by fire Sunday evening, with a loss which is roughly estimated at \$30,000. The books and records of the city clerk and the city treasurer were saved and City Engineer Grover got the larger part of his books out of the building. The origin of the fire is not known. The doors were locked all day and an electric wire theory is only a guess. However the fire started, it soon spread to the cedar decorations and they burned like tinder. The building is completely gutted above the first floor and the roof is gone. An old landmark of Rutland is gone.

The fire was discovered by a passer-by who noticed a blaze in the second story. Running into the fire station he informed the firemen that the building was ablaze over their heads. The firemen carried a line of hose up the front stairs and broke in a door leading into the auditorium. The cedar arch over the stage was all ablaze and the fire quickly spread to the smaller arches of the same material in the gallery. The blaze worked up through the ceiling and broke out in the hose tower on the east side of the building. The old Washington engine company's fire bell, which had not been rung in years, gave out a dull note as one of its supports burned away and it was tilted to one side. The fire spread to the adjoining roof of the hall and the flagstaff on the tower toppled over to the south, carrying a portion of the roof down with it. The old bell fell with a crash to the bottom of the tower. Unfortunately the old street gas lamps had been stored in the attic of the building.

City Clerk Whittier and City Treasurer Davis decided not to trust their records to the fire-proof vault and moved them out of the building. The officials of the Rutland railroad offered the use of their vault in the Clement building for the temporary storing of the records and the offer was accepted. Some records were taken to the Bardwell house. Harry Whittier put two packages of his private papers aside to take out of the clerk's office if the fire became serious. He afterwards was found rescuing his papers from a deposit of mud, where some thoughtful citizen had thrown them.

The Rutland City Hall was built in 1871. The land on which the hall stood was bought by the town and the village from Albert F. Davis. The building cost over \$35,000. After the fire two rooms were rented on the first floor of the Bardwell House for the City Engineer, Police and the City Council, while offices of the City Clerk and Treasurer were in the Sawyer block on Evelyn Street. Plans to rebuild City Hall were being made and bonds that had been voted on in 1899, not to exceed \$20,000, were to be used. Many merchants objected to using these bonds to rebuild as they had been voted on to enlarge the building to three stories with an auditorium, dressing rooms, a kitchen and all the possibilities of a conference center. The bonds were not for rebuilding. One merchant stated that Rutland was naturally suited for holding conventions and using the bonds to rebuild would leave a potential convention city without a convention hall. The City Council decided to rebuild the old city hall exclusively for the business of the city, leaving out the auditorium.

Around May 20, 1902, several offices moved to their new quarters with a total cost to the city for the building of \$40,460.58, which included the \$20,000 bond the voters had provided for a conference center. By June 6, 1902, the board of aldermen held their first meeting in the repaired city building.

One hundred years ago the building was “repaired” and now in 2002 it has again been refurbished. It is well worth a trip to see the changes to this beautiful old building. The financial business conducted now far exceeds that of 100 years ago. Don’t you sometimes wonder what former city administrators would think of the cost of running city government in today’s world!

Tidbits from Then and Now

June 19, 2002

Proctor's Marble Bridge

Excerpts from *Proctor: My Home Town* by Herbert Johnson and structural information from Warren McCullough of Proctor.

Some time previous to 1794, the Union Bridge was built across the river at the head of the falls, at the old ford crossing by the present Proctor Library. This bridge was swept over the falls during the great flood of 1811. Soon thereafter a second bridge was built on the same site. Because of faulty abutments, this bridge also was carried over the falls during the flood of 1839. For the following two years, crossing the river could only be made by boat or on several long timbers drawn across the river by Mr. Hills Taylor.

The covered bridge at the falls was built by Louis Wolcott in 1841. It was replaced in 1915 by the present Marble Bridge, which was a gift to the Town of Proctor from Mrs. Emily J. Proctor, wife of Senator Proctor, as a memorial to her son Fletcher Proctor.

During 1975, the Marble Bridge underwent extensive repairs because of normal usage and vandalism. In 1976 a car smashed into the north parapet of the bridge knocking several rails and balusters into the river. The original marble, Neshobe Gray from the West Blue quarry in West Rutland, was replaced with Vermarco Delft which was a fair match to the original. Later in 1978, another car damaged the south side of the bridge in a similar manner. The balusters were replaced with Cherokee white marble from the Georgia Marble Company's quarry in Tate, Georgia.

Now, in 2002, the Marble Bridge is again undergoing extensive repairs due to deterioration of the cement from chemical use during the winter months. The extent of the damage will not be known until workers begin to examine the interior of the structure which contains a 16 inch depth of cement covered by tar and the arches are filled with gravel. "Hard" Danby marble will replace the whole top of the structure which was built with "soft" marble. The piers are in need of repair, but are not being done at this time. Pedestrians and bikes can still cross the bridge, but cars and trucks must follow alternate routes to access all areas in the town.

Since this construction is going to continue through the summer and into the fall, it would be well worth some class trips by area schools to give students an opportunity to view something that they will always remember. When I was in kindergarten in Manchester, NH, the Notre Dame bridge [a major bridge connecting the West and East sides of Manchester] was washed out in a flood. My class was taken over to see it being replaced and that sight remains "filed" in my memory. The only problem was that fifty years later they said that that bridge had to be replaced because it was antiquated!! Guess how that made me feel!

June 26
2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald "published every Thursday Evening at Rutland VT"
January 17, 1850

The New Hampshire charter of Rutland, was granted September 7, 1761. According to the boundaries of the town therein given, the east line of the town is five and one half miles long, the north line seven and a half miles and the west line five and one half miles and the south line six and three quarter miles.

There were sixty-four shares granted to sixty four persons whose names are on the original charter. The owners of woodland were to bear in mind that King George granted the charter on the express condition that "all white and other pine trees fit for masting Our Royal Navy be preserved and not cut or felled."

The charter provided that as soon as fifty families resided in town, there should be two annual fairs and a market one or more days each week. Supposedly this charter was obtained for the usual cost of New Hampshire town grants at about \$100.00.

The first permanent settlement in Rutland was made by James Mead and family on March 9, 1770. The first child born in Rutland was William Powers, son of Simeon Powers, on September 23, 1770. Wright Roberts, son-in-law of James Mead is said to have been the first white inhabitant who died in town. His wife, Sarah was the first white woman to die in the town.

The first congregational church in Rutland began on October 20, 1773 with 14 members. The first meeting house in Rutland was built by a *bee* of the inhabitants in the summer of 1773. In 1773 the first burial ground was laid out at the center of the town, but, in 1784 James Mead deeded it to the town as, "one acre of land to bury their dead". Many burial grounds are now located throughout Rutland and hold the wonderful history of our City ---They need care.

The Rutland Historical Society is the "keeper of the past". One of the major concerns of the Society, as well as many churches and organizations, is the care of these cemeteries. There is a state law that requires municipal governments to see that they are taken care of. Generally speaking the job is well done, but more volunteers are needed to help care for the resting places of our buried leaders. Vandalism has been on the rise over the years, so wouldn't it be nice if interested persons or even organizations could "adopt" a cemetery to give it "tender, loving care". It would also be a good way for our children to get acquainted with their past. Think about it and then act--call the Rutland Historical Society at 775-2006 and bring the past to your future citizens.

Jul 3, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Fourth of July 1902

Program For the Celebration of the Day

Horse and Foot Races At Fair Grounds; Baseball Game Between School Teams

The principal event in this city for the 4th of July was a field day celebration under the auspices of the City Band, held at the fair grounds in the afternoon. The entries for the various athletic events and races closed at midnight the day before with the exception of the peg race, the entries in which were received on the field. The starter in the horse races was E.S. Whittaker; the foot race judges, Henry Barrett and John Haney. C.R. Brown arranged the handicaps in the foot races and fired the pistol.

Foot racers from the city included F.L. Britton, T. Shelby and F. Connor. Those entered in the horse races from the city included F.S. Hale, Charles Stace, M. Paul and R. Sherman, and the bicycle entries included Roy Bullock and Fred Gleason.

The baseball game between the high school and Brandon teams began at noon. There was a concert at the Depot park stand from 10 to 11 AM until the arrival for the train bearing the visiting players. Both teams were escorted to the grounds by the band. A fireworks display in the evening was one of the features of the celebration.

Fourth of July 1952

Although there was no formal celebration of the "glorious Fourth" in Rutland, many holiday events drew the interest of Rutlanders.

8AM--Fourth of July weekend golf tournament at Country Club.

9AM--Mid-Vermont Artist Summer Exhibition-at library

10AM--Releasing of "freedom" balloons by the American Legion on Merchants Row

Treasure hunt at city playgrounds

Midget league game, Stowell vs. Eagles, St. Peter's field

10:30AM--Novelty races at the playgrounds

11AM--Circus parade, downtown Rutland [The King Brothers and Cristiani Combined circus, one of the worlds biggest amusement organizations, parade. The parade started from the west gate at the fairgrounds on Park Street and moved up South Main Street to Strongs Avenue and along Merchants Row to West Street to Wales to Strongs Avenue to the scene of the circus at the Fairgrounds]. Circus performances were given at 2 and 8 PM. Memorial service, VFW quarters

2:30 PM--Rutland Junior Legion vs. Center Rutland, St. Peter's field.

8 PM--Dancing at Cove Point, Lake Dunmore

9PM--Dancing at the Casino, Lake Bomoseen [Burns Martin Orchestra and on the 9th of July Woody Herman and his famous orchestra].

Fourth of July 2002

The activities planned for this year's celebration include Bingo and a concert at the Fairgrounds before the Demolition Derby. Fireworks will conclude the celebration. At 7:30 in the Main Street Park there will be a concert by the Rutland City Band. Other activities are planned during the week.

For Rutland over the past 100 years the celebrations seem to be relatively the same, although it is noticeable that it all leans toward a great deal of recreation--sort of giving a "bang" to the start of Summer. Wonder if many people remember what the Fourth of July is REALLY all about? That is, other than their freedom to do their "own thing"!

#158

Tidbits from Then and Now

Jul 10, 2002

The following article was too good not to share--especially on the hot days of July!

RUTLAND INDEPENDENT, July 20, 1867

The Proper Manner of Sleeping in Church

Some vain persons have been so weak and wicked as to raise a question about the merits of sleeping in church. They allege that the church was built for the purpose of divine worship, and it is an insult to our Creator to go to sleep in it. They further allege that is disrespectful to the speaker and to ourselves to do so. This dreadful thinking is only another of the radical and extreme tendencies of their age.

The uniform practice of the church (especially on warm [hot] days) is clear. I hold that like all other Christian practices, there ought to be uniformity in the manner of sleeping in church. We find it in all other parts of the worship--i.e. all sit while the sermon is being delivered--all stand or kneel when prayer is offered. Why, then, should those who are engaged in offering up sleep worship not conform to some uniform attitude?

1st--It is an improper manner of performing this sleep worship duty to nod, and for the plain reason that the worshipper attracts too much attention. Those in his immediate vicinity, instead of attending to their own worship, are lost in admiration of the profound state that his devotional meditations have placed him.

2nd--Nor is it proper to snore in the performance of his sleep worship duty--partly for the foregoing reasons, but mainly because it is a direct infraction of the golden rule. Suppose, for instance, that your neighbor is asleep; by your snoring he will be disturbed, probably awakened. This is not doing to others as you would have them do to you.

3rd--It is unchristian to sleep with the head thrown back and the mouth wide open. It is wrong to injure one's health while offering worship; and all physicians admit that such a position is liable to produce a sore throat and hoarseness. Besides, flies sometimes get into the mouth on such occasions and by their injurious explorations tickle the delicate membranes and cause horrible sneezing and coughing, which can be very injurious to health.

4th--To sleep with head resting on the arms of the worshipper, and the face buried up in the cuffs of the coat, is the most improper way of offering sleep worship. First, because it is injurious to health, and is altogether a very unsafe way of performing the sleep worship duty. In would be impossible to know whether the Christian worshipper is asleep or awake. The only truly pious way of performing the important duty of sleeping in church is, to sit upright, face to the minister, avoiding nodding, snoring and expressions of the head.

Remember, we now have fans, air conditioners etc. to keep us cool. So unless it's the sermon that makes you feel like using sleep worship, keep in mind the manner of performing this "duty".

Jul 17, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

It seems to be the opinion of many that a town, when it rises to the size and importance of Rutland, must of necessity continue on in its prosperous career, at least as long as all its present means of support are maintained in a healthful and sound condition. This, as it appears to us, is neither a sensible nor a safe philosophy. To augment the size of a stream it would be necessary to add to it new tributaries; and if a merchant would increase his annual sales he must add to his number of customers, or his present number must in some way or another be enabled to buy more goods, and so with a village of the importance of Rutland--if its continued growth is to be rendered certain, the extent of the area from which it draws support should be extended as far as possible

There is probably no town in the State which has within the past few years added as much to its wealth, population, business, and all that goes to give a town character, influence and power as has Rutland. The actual increase in her business has been yet far more wonderful. We are speaking of second life for an old time honored, though a long sleeping New England village, which it was supposed had reached the height of its glory almost a half century ago.

An important question for consideration now is whether Rutland shall continue to increase as it has for the past few years, or indeed whether it can be held staid and steadfast where it is. This whole matter depends, in a very great measure, on the future action of the business men of Rutland. How many attempts have been made from time to time, and how often have able, practical manufacturers from other sections visited Rutland with a view of getting up an interest in the establishment of woolen and cotton mills in the area, and how invariably have they been disconcerted and driven off by the "cold water" thrown upon their enterprises by "business men" of Rutland. Acts of incorporation have been obtained; companies partially organized, subscriptions for stock volunteered for these purposes, and all effectually squelched by "business men" for the reason, forsooth, that a small cotton or woolen mill in Clarendon or Pittsford, in Center Rutland or Sutherland Falls, would injure the prosperity of a village.

In regard to the peculiar advantages of Rutland as a central town in Western Vermont, we need to say nothing. As the center of a rich agricultural county it is certainly unequalled by any in the State and as a market for the production of the agriculturist we doubt if any better can be found in New England. What seems to be most wanted now is the further development of the mechanical and manufacturing interest of the country around us. A stranger in visiting Rutland County, if an observing, practical business man, would be struck with astonishment at the entire disregard which seems to be paid to the innumerable water privileges with which we are surrounded. He would remind us of the fact that we have in Rutland alone, as much water power as the towns and cities of Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Hampshire, while all around us, with all necessary railroad facilities, with a productive soil with the home products of the material necessary to keep thousands of spindles in motion, we see beautiful streams dancing on their way over rocks and precipices as though they were designed only to give variety to the scene, and beautify the landscape. These privileges should no longer remain unappreciated and unimproved. If "the Mountain will not go to Mahomet, Mahomet must go to the Mountain." Every power should be turned to common advantage. It would give employment to many persons and will more or less add to the business and prosperity of Rutland.

The previous commentaries are not from the present, although they sure sound familiar. They are excerpts from the *Rutland County Independent*, written in October of 1866.

X160

Jul 24, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

There is a new phrase of crime in Vermont--women, lads and youth are in prison, in increasing numbers and it demands the earnest attention of the friends of morality and religion. Where did these women and youth confined in our prisons come from? Not chiefly from families where the daughters are rightly instructed and properly watched over by Christian parents, and where the sons are trained to industry, morality and good thinking. No, not from these, but from the low haunts of vice in the suburbs of our large villages, from the streets frequented by youth whose parents are dead or absent, or who care not to know where the children are, if only they are out of sight and "out of the way". They come from the resorts of profaneness, vulgarity, dram-drinking [alcohol], cigar puffing, foul gossip, vile ribaldry [coarseness] and scoffing [at rules and laws]. They come chiefly from the places of neglect, ignorance and vice.

Most of the females and youth sentenced to prison have had very little education. A majority of these two classes were not born in the state, which is a relief to the reflections of natives of the state, but enough of them have either lived here for some time, or were born here to show that there is a vast amount of work to be done in Vermont.

The Reform School and orphanages in the state are indeed signs of good promise for our state in the future, but it yet remains a great work for every minister in his own parish, and every Christian and good citizen in his own village and neighborhood, for the prevention of vices and crimes that multiply numbers in our prisons.

These excerpts are taken from the *Rutland County Independent* of October 6, 1866.

Aren't we supposed to learn from history so that it won't repeat itself? Now in this, the "future" of that article, we have overflowing prisons, with not enough staffing to be attentive to each offender. We have eliminated "reform schools" in place of group homes and orphanages are replaced by foster homes. Are our neighborhoods safe in any area of the state? Are the children, who are now supposedly educated missing out on good morals of the Golden Rule..."Do unto others as you would have them do unto you"?

Law enforcement is being stretched to the limit by all the "do what makes you happy," "It's my body, I'll do what I want", "I want it so I'll take it," "If something is in your way, eliminate it"!!

Christian values do not mean that you are following a particular religion. It means that you are living by standards that are in your best interest to give you a free and peaceful life. It means that you are helping your fellow neighbors, not envying what they have or feeling that you are better than they are because you have something they don't.

If in 1866 people were worried about the future of Christian values, they must have had great insight. Even non-Christian citizens live under the guidance of a greater being...Let's keep a God in our hearts as we deal with everyday life.

#161

Jul 31, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

"To encourage people to earn and conserve money is of vital importance to the individual and to the nation". "Count not upon today's plenty". "Tomorrow may find the purse empty."

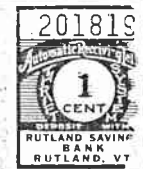
These quotes do not come from the advisors and investors of today's society. You can almost realize that by looking at the present stock market reports . No, these quotes are found in a local bank savings folder from 80 years ago.

The Rutland Historical Society has acquired a wonderful savings stamp folder from the early 1920s. It was issued to encourage children to save their pennies to build up a savings account. The owner of this particular folder was approximately 6 years old when his father would give him a penny and he would go directly to the bank to receive a stamp to paste in his folder. When the folder was full, the amount of the stamps was totaled and that amount would be placed in the child's bank account where it would draw interest according to the bank's established rules.

This particular savings folder was issued by the Rutland Savings Bank which was incorporated in 1850. The officers noted on the folder for the 1920's were: Henry O. Carpenter, President; Frederick H. Farrington, Vice-President; Charles A. Simpson, Treasurer and Louis E. Campbell, Assistant Treasurer. The wonderful thing about the location for the stamps are the little sayings noted in every other square. Besides the ones at the start of this article are: "Education, Travel, A Home, Business, Recreation" [options for saving your money]; "You cannot start preparing Too Early"; "Little Sums spent Recklessly are Gone"; "A Wise Spender is a Safe Investor"; "Every day add Some More"; "Stick to it! Make it Your Hobby"; "History always repeats itself" [have we learned from the 20s or are we repeating history?]; "Money set aside often proves a Blessing"; "Let 'Thrift' be your Slogan"; "The result will Surprise you"; "Nothing accumulates like interest"; "Be a LENDER not a Borrower" [Are we borrowing when we use credit cards today?]; "Take Care of Nickels and Dimes"; "They Will Soon Grow to Dollars"; "Waste is more than Loss"; and "The Scope of Thrift is Limitless" [Don't we often wonder why some of the richest people are the hardest to get to spend their money?].

Hope you enjoy seeing this little folder as much as the Acquisition Committee at the Rutland Historical Society has.

Moisten Stamps Lightly - Stick Straight in Squares - Numbers must show

				Count not upon Today's Plenty	Tomorrow may find the Purse EMPTY	
				Education Travel A Home Business Recreation	You cannot start preparing Too Early	
	In the Automatic Thrift Machine			Little Sums spent Recklessly are Gone	A Wise Spender is a Safe Investor	
Every day add Some More		Stick to it! Make it Your Hobby		History always repeats itself	Money set aside often proves a Blessing	
Let "Thrift" be your Slogan		The result will Surprise you		Nothing accumulates like Interest	Be a LENDER not a Borrower	
Take Care of Nickels and Dimes		They Will Soon Grow to Dollars		"Waste is more than Loss"	"The Scope of Thrift is Limitless"	

Add up value of stamps and place here

Total \$

SAVINGS STAMP FOLDER

DIRECTIONS FOR DEPOSITORS

When you have One Dollar or more in stamps affixed to your folder, bring, mail or send it to our offices and get credit in a pass-book which should always be presented when depositing.

When pasting stamps in folder, be certain that the number at the top of each stamp is plainly visible.

Use the same care to guard against loss of folders or stamps as you do with real money. We do not assume responsibility in event of the loss or mislaying of a stamp folder, but a separate record of stamp numbers may be kept for reference.

The amount of lawful money which the stamp receipts on this folder prove to have been used in exchange for them will be credited to the order of the owner hereof on a new or old account and will draw interest compounded according to our established rules.



Received Credit From

RUTLAND SAVINGS BANK

RUTLAND, VERMONT

For \$ _____ as shown by stamps hereon
applied on my savings account

NUMBER _____

Signed _____

TO BE SIGNED BY THE DEPOSITOR

No. _____

Amt. _____

Owner's Name Paul Whittlemore
PRINT your name in INK

Residence 69 1/2 Baxter St Street

RUTLAND, VT.
(Occupation with what firm, or school and grade)

SAVINGS STAMP FOLDER

for holding Stamp Receipts issued through
AUTOMATIC RECEIVING TELLERS

Operated By

RUTLAND SAVINGS BANK

RUTLAND, VERMONT

INCORPORATED 1850

OFFICERS

HENRY O. CARPENTER, PRESIDENT
FREDERICK H. FARRINGTON, VICE-PRESIDENT
CHARLES A. SIMPSON, TREASURER
LOUIS E. CAMPBELL, ASSISTANT TREASURER

To encourage people to earn and conserve money is of
vital importance to the individual
and to the nation.

WE WELCOME YOU AT OUR BANK

**IF FOUND, RETURN TO OWNER OR TO US
NOT TRANSFERABLE**

Aug 3 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, 9 July 1908

Park Theater and the Grandstand Are Quickly Swept Away

Fire Thursday afternoon destroyed the old grandstand at the Rutland County Fairgrounds and quickly swept through the Park Theater nearby, which left that structure a mass of seething ruins. The fire is believed to have been started by a cigar or cigarette stub, dropped through the grandstand by one of the spectators at the baseball game between the Rutland team and the ex-R.H.S. nine earlier in the afternoon.

The building known as the Park Theater was erected by the E.W. Bissell Manufacturing company in the summer of 1899. The amount necessary being subscribed by 14 citizens to furnish a place for the meetings of the Vermont Kennel Club, and once a year for the Rutland County Agricultural Society. Later the Vermont Kennel Club ceased to use the building annually, and it had since been leased by the owners to the proprietors of theaters and in other ways to reimburse them for their outlay. During the last three years the building has been leased to George S. Haley and Felix Blei, and the latter has conducted a theater there each summer. Previously, the place was leased by P.V. Donahy, now of Glens Falls, N.Y. who ran a theater there and expended considerable money in fixing it up. Mr. Haley and others also have made considerable expenditures at different times on repairs and alterations.

Part of the grandstand was erected about 40 years ago, and an addition was built on nearly 18 years ago, when the horse Breeders' Association held exhibitions on the grounds.

On 16 July it is noted in the *Weekly Rutland Herald* that the grandstand would be rebuilt by September in time for the Fair. Does anyone recall anyone mentioning the Park Theater? There were two other theaters mentioned in 1908, Dreamland and Wonderland. Dreamland was in the Gryphon building. Where was Wonderland?

As we all know, there was another grandstand fire in 1939. Again it was rebuilt. Today work can be seen along South Main Street where barns have been taken down and the grounds seem more wide open. As with any enterprise, one thing leads to another--hopefully for the better!

Aug 14, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Everybody's loves riding a bicycle. Whether it's a child riding a tricycle, an adult riding a bicycle or even a motorcycle. There is something magical in learning to balance this wonderful thing on wheels.

The bicycle is here to stay. It has proved itself an indispensable adjunct to the requirements of thousands upon thousands of out-o'-door enthusiasts. It has shown itself a necessity in the transaction of business--a practically cost-less means of locomotion to and from place to place--a dignified and inexpensive method of keeping in touch with the outside world.

The bicycle makes no demands upon its mount of mechanical knowledge or operating skill. Its very simplicity gives it a standing which it alone enjoys-- a means of overcoming distances at will, leisurely, with little or no effort. Neither does it impose age limitations, nor is it confined to any one sex. It is everybody's vehicle--something that everybody can afford to buy and operate and thoroughly enjoy.

Low in initial cost [maybe!] and costing practically nothing to maintain, the bicycle affords every man, woman, boy and girl a perfect solution of the problem of living outdoors in a healthily active state and reveling in an ever-changing panorama of the world as they have imagined it. It is a sport, a pastime and a recreation.

These words were not written in 2002, but in 1918 when bicycles were powered by leg muscles pumping the pedals. No "ten speed" and beyond, just a single chain that went round and round as you pushed on the pedal. Remember going uphill?!

On November 12, 1881, the Rutland Bicycle Club organized and consisted of 32 members. An Annual Memorial Day run took place from the Club Headquarters to Fair Haven, VT. The distance of about 18 miles, and started at 8:30 am. If time allowed, they would also take a short run to Poultney, a distance of about 10 miles. Dinner was served at the Park View House at 4:30 pm after all had returned.

C.G. "Nele" Ross, Captain of the Bicycle Club

Today, many people think that they are getting great exercise while riding their bicycles. Maybe so, but it's nothing like the exercise we "older folks" got while riding our "non-shift" bikes. The first time I tried a "ten-speed", no one told me the brakes were on the handlebars--needless to say, it was the neighbor's tree that stopped me. [The kids never let me use their bikes again!]

Aug 21, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Beautiful Lake Bomoseen. People speak of it with such fond memories. Dancing at the Casino where big name bands performed. Staying at a cottage for a week or two, or even owning a small cottage where the whole summer could be spent boating, fishing, and just swimming and having summer fun. Bomoseen was Rutland's summer playground and had one section that was called "Little Rutland." There was even an annual Regatta that was started in 1905.

A newspaper clipping of the 1930's, from one of the scrap books of Probate Judge L. J. Egelston provided the following information:

Regatta of 1912

Judge L. J. Egelston, who has been much interested in motor boats on Lake Bomoseen for the past quarter century and who has owned several fast outfits, has in his possession a copy of the program of the seventh annual regatta which was held by the Lake Bomoseen Yacht Club on August 15, 1912. There were 77 boats in the parade which formed at what was known then as "Dunn's Hotel." It was led by the steamer Arthur B. Cook which carried the Rutland City Band. The parade followed the East shore of the lake, crossing to the west side opposite to what was known then as "The Glenwood Hotel," then turning North to follow the West shore along Avalon Beach, crossing north of Neshobee Island to point of starting.

The parade committee was composed of H.D. Pushie, E.G. Pollock, and Fred Warren. Fred spends the summers at his place on Rabbit Island.

Of those who were in the parade and are still living in Rutland and vicinity [in the 1930's] are the following: Walter B. Brown, Charles Metzger, L.J. Egelston, G.H.V. Allen, Hollis S. Johnson, E.A. Angevine, Fred C. Roberts, Henry Adams, Elmer Preston, Morris Patterson, Edward Manning, Dr. H.H. Yarrington, F.A. Wilson, Edward Bellemore, Harry P. Smith, Walter German, Theodore Lewis and Lloyd Fish. The commodore of the Club was Capt. C.E. Lansing.

The races started at 2 PM. The committee in charge of this was: Hollis S. Johnson, Charles R. Allen and Walter Freeman. The Class A race had 36 entries, while the Class B had 35 entries. Prizes consisting of cups were given to the first three winners in each class.

The Class C for fast boats was a handicap race of six miles. There were six entries in this race, which was won by Judge Egelston with [his boat] "Nameless."

No wonder Lake Bomoseen was called Rutland's Summer Playground.

#165

Tidbits from Then and Now

Aug 28, 2002

Rutland Herald, June 19, 1939

Fair Structure Is Completely Destroyed by Flames

The Rutland Fair Grandstand was destroyed Saturday evening, June 17th by a fire of undetermined origin, which caused a loss estimated at \$35,000. Only a favorable wind, which blew the flames out over the open oval and away from the many exhibition buildings, prevented further loss.

In spite of the efforts of 21 regular and call firemen who remained on the grounds for more than three hours, the north side of the judges' stand across the race track from the grandstand, was charred. The big industrial building, the nearest of the exhibition halls to the stand, became so hot that clouds of steam arose when the firemen played a hose upon it.

Although the fire broke out when many persons were about, it was not discovered until it had spread through the entire length of the 405-foot stand which seated about 6000 people. The flames had gained such headway before discovery and had burned over such a wide area that the entire stand was afire and the roof was beginning to collapse when the firemen arrived. It was seen at once that the building was doomed. The dry woodwork of the stand burned like tinder and for a few minutes flames shot high into the air, being visible from a considerable distance. Congestion of traffic became so acute that extra officers were sent to the scene to keep vehicles moving.

When the firemen departed, only a few charred timbers were left of the grandstand, a portion of which was nearly 30 years old. With the stand, tenting, chairs, tables, and other equipment owned by the Fair Association and concessionaires went up in smoke as they were stored under the stand.

The eastern section of the grandstand, and this included more than two-thirds of the entire structure, was built in 1910 after an earlier stand had been badly damaged by fire. [see previous article of August 7, 2002] An addition, which also went up in flames Saturday, was erected in 1922.

As the 1939 fair was to open September 4th, only about 10 weeks remained in which to clear away the debris and build a new and more modern building for seating fair visitors and race followers.

Within 60 days, from June 20th to August 20 the construction was completed and the grandstand was ready for the opening of the fair on September 4, 1939. Obviously, there were no permit delays, Act 250 hearings, or a lack of laborers to hold up construction of the grandstand that still “stands tall.”

Think we could do that type of work so quickly today?

Sep 4, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

In 1847, a magnetic telegraph line, which would allow Rutland to communicate almost instantaneously with New York City and Washington, D.C., was proposed to the citizens of Rutland. Tentatively, the route would run from Troy to Bennington, Rutland, Middlebury, Burlington and north to Canada. That July, a representative of the line appeared at the Courthouse to explain the route and the stock options in detail. He had made a preliminary inquiry in the towns where a station house would be established to assess the rate; Rutland's share was three thousand dollars which, after some difficulty, was finally raised and the first installment paid in September. The route was altered as Brandon had not met its stock subscription. From Rutland the course ran west to Whitehall and from there north to Middlebury.

Miraculously, the line was completed within several months. Poles had been installed along most of the line and wires strung between Troy and Bennington by November. On Saturday 15 January 1848 the line was finished and opened communication. The *Rutland Herald*, which benefited greatly from this service, commented that "had anyone two years previous predicted the completion at this time of such a project as this, he would have been laughed at as a visionary, madman or fool"; and yet now since the thing is done, none seem surprised at it". The erection of posts and wires over nearly 200 miles of telegraph in the state caused as little interest as the arrival of the regular mail coaches.

After the railroad which connected Boston and Rutland was first opened in December 1849, another telegraph was put through. The line followed the Fitchburg, Cheshire and Rutland Railroad where it joined with the Troy-Montreal line.

By 1881 a Rutland Telephone Exchange had been established in the Bates House. Leon Bagley, manager of the Western Union and A&P telegraph offices at the Union Passenger Depot, was also manager of the Rutland Telephone Exchange and agent for the American Bell Telephone Company. Joel M. Haven, who was treasurer of the Rutland Railroad Company, was proprietor of the Rutland Telephone Exchange and the Bates House.

A 1906 New England Telephone and Telegraph Company statement to the Rutland County State's Attorney read: For use of Toll Lines--(27 calls), cost \$4.46 and Messenger Service (5) [Telegrams], cost .60.

In 1926, John H. DonLeavy was the manager of Western Union Telegraph Company and the above picture shows Raymond Brunelle at age 16 in the uniform of the Western Union messenger boy. Don't you love the uniform with the spats and his mode of transportation?

A telegram was not always a happy thing to receive as most had a message that needed immediate attention. Some to announce a destination of family on a trip, some to parents of

young travelers or students who had run out of money, but mostly to announce someone missing in action or killed in action during a war. Today we don't hear much of anyone sending a telegram. There are so many modes of speedy contact that have developed over the years: telephones, computers with E-mail and Fax machines that can send messages to a home and if not to a nearby service that will contact the person. But, again, it seems like the personal side of the delivery of "special" news has gone from society along with the local telephone operator.

Sep 11, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

THE RISE AND FALL OF A NEW OPERA HOUSE

October 7, 1899

A deed was recorded at the city clerk's office yesterday transferring the block on the north side of Center Street, occupied by W.S. Smith's shoe store, F.Gosselin's market and The Rutland Candy Kitchen, from Miss Annie E. Pierpoint to L.H. McIntire. Besides the block on Center Street the transfer includes considerable property in the rear of other stores on Center Street and some houses on the south side of Willow Street.

December 20, 1899

L.H. McIntire is ready to put up a \$35,000 or \$40,000 theater on his Center and Willow Street property if he can be assured that the public is with him and really wants a new opera house. He would build the theater if the theater property were exempted from taxation for five years. Dr. M.R. Crain circulated a paper among the businessmen of the city and in a short time obtained over 40 signatures to an agreement by which the subscribers bound themselves to guarantee the taxes on the theater for five years. The city could not legally vote to exempt an opera house from taxation so the plan was to get it exempted by a special act of the legislature. If this could not be done the subscribers to the agreement would pay the taxes themselves.

January 4, 1900

The proposed theater will extend directly back to the Willow Street line, where stage entrances will be made. The stage will be large enough to accommodate the largest theatrical and opera companies on the road and will be fitted with stand pipes and hose to be used in case of fire. There will be exits enough so that in case of disturbance or fire the building can be cleared of all people in one and a half minutes. Marble will be used largely in the entrance and foyer and the decorations will be in white and gold after the Italian renaissance style. The extent and character of the Center Street front will depend upon the securing of property contiguous to that already bought by Mr. McIntire and a handsome and extensive front will be erected where small unattractive frame buildings now exist. Work on the new building will begin in the early spring and it will be ready for use at the opening of the theatrical season next fall.

January 6, 1900

Rutland will have a new theater before another year is ended, that is, if Providence or cranks don't interfere. L.H. McIntire, the projector of the scheme, is going to do what no other citizen of Rutland has attempted since the present opera house was constructed. [The original Ripley Opera House on Merchants Row burned in 1875 and was rebuilt in 1881 by General E.H. Ripley on the same site. It seated about 850 people]. There are many details to be settled before the actual work of putting up the building is begun but it looks as if Rutland is at last, after many years of wishful thinking, to rank well with any city of its size in the country in its provision for amusement enterprises. This new opera house will seat 1200 to 1400 people.

January 16, 1900

The Rutland Merchants' Association held its annual meeting in the rooms under Odd Fellows' Hall last evening. There was some informal talk about remodeling the City Hall, and whether

this would interfere with Mr. McIntire's new opera house project, which the association does not wish to antagonize. [An earlier article told of the rebuilding of City Hall, after a fire, with a conference center included in the plans]

February 21, 1900

The front of the theater will occupy the space on Center Street now occupied by the Barrett drug store, and the lobby will be the width of that building. In the lobby will be the box office and coat rooms. The theater proper will be built in the form of a perfect circle 72-feet in diameter and measuring 50 feet from the pit to the center of the dome. The roof of this dome will be something entirely new in form of construction. The whole dome will be of tile, covered with asphaltum, and so constructed that no girders will be necessary to hold it in place. The star feature of the theater, however, is the stage which measures between the sides of the proscenium arch 35 feet, while the whole width is 72 feet. There will be two balconies in the theater, one above the other, the front of the first being 39 feet from the curtain and the second, to which there will be an entirely separate entrance on Center Street, some feet further back. The balconies and seats on the main floor are so arranged that the whole of the stage can be seen from any seat in the theater. Eight private boxes, four on each side of the stage, two up and two down, have been provided for.

March 22, 1900

There is a hitch in the plans of L.H. McIntire for building a theater on Center Street. There is an open sewer on the proposed site and a need for a new sewer system. There are two brook sewers that come together in the rear of the buildings at the corner of Center Street and Merchants Row. One brook starts on Washington Street and the other up toward Nichols Street. Mr. McIntire recommended building a trunk line sewer down West Street and Merchants Row and connecting all the building with it. The brook sewer could then be eliminated. Engineers estimate that it will cost about \$90,000 to abandon the brook sewers and build trunk line sewers along the main thoroughfares affected. Only a sewer rests between Rutland and a first-class theater, equipped with all the modern conveniences. It would be humiliating to have the growth of this city checked by a sewer.

May 18, 1900

It is very evident that the street committee is going right ahead with the construction of the Willow Street sewer which will run through the land on which L.H. McIntire proposes to erect his theater without further delay. Many people have been skeptical over the theater project. Some of them cannot be blamed for many bluffs have been made in this direction in the past but it does not look reasonable that one would spend \$1,200 for plans for which he can show bills, and has done so to certain doubters, as Mr. McIntire has for the mere purpose of gaining a temporary popularity.

June 16, 1900

A number of people are asking if the new theater project has been abandoned and if so why. L.H. McIntire stated that he had nothing to say either regarding past events or what the future might have in store. He added that if anyone took any interest in the affair it would be a very

easy matter to discover the reason for the outcome of the enterprise and intimated that he was not the person to ask why the theater had not been built.

Today, we are fully aware that this grand Opera House was not built on the north side of Center Street. Fortunately for Rutland, George T. Chaffee would build the Playhouse [The Paramount] on the south side of Center Street in 1913.

Rutland Daily Herald, August 6, 1943

At a private dedication of the Hattie Jane Dyer Weeks Memorial Library in the State Colony House on Columbian Avenue, tributes were paid to the late Mrs. Weeks, ex-Governor John E. Weeks, who donated the library to the Colony house, and to Miss Katherine M. Dolan, matron of the house, by Lieut. Gov. Mortimer R. Proctor, Timothy C. Dale, state commissioner of public welfare and Dr. Frederick C. Thorn, head of Brandon State School, who also introduced other speakers.

Ex-Gov. Weeks told the gathering how he and his wife worked together in all their projects and of their great interest in the girls of the Colony House. "It seemed wise that these girls should have all the advantages that can be given them that will make their lives a little happier, brighter and easier. I hope this will be just a starting point in what can be done for the girls".

Miss Dolan, who has been matron at the Colony House since 1930, reviewed briefly her years with the girls, stating that she came into a "bookless" house and immediately bought reading material, as much as could be afforded at that time. She expressed the appreciation of the girls and herself for the Memorial Library.

The library was decorated in soft grays and greens, consisting of light natural wood shelves on two walls and a magazine section and "what-not" on the opposite wall. Easy chairs and a victrola stand and reading lamps completed the room's furnishings. Illustrated Vermont poems hung on the walls and the library itself was as "Vermontish" as possible as it contained many books about the state and by Vermont authors.

The State Colony House was established in 1925 and served as a place where girls from Brandon Training School who were capable of partial self-support could be assisted to assume more responsibility and taught how to solve the problems they would face in the outside world. It also helped them to accumulate a substantial amount of savings. Most of the girls earned money by doing domestic work in local homes.

Miss Dolan announced after the dedication ceremony that an open house would be held for local friends of the Colony House sometime within the next two weeks. Due to the limited size of the house, only a limited number of guests could be accommodated at the dedication ceremony.

Since 1925 the Colony House had been occupied under a lease. After the death of Mrs. Thomas Moloney, her estate sold the building to the state of Vermont in 1945. At the time of the sale, the State of Vermont also bought Mrs. Moloney's residence, which adjoined on the north, and incorporated it into the Colony House. Today these two buildings have been revitalized back to their original exterior appearances and contain apartments that provide affordable housing to their residents.

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Tidbits from Then and Now

Sep 25, 2002

Mrs. Elizabeth Johnson was the daughter of slaves, Alfred Williams and the former Emily White, who were owned by the family of Confederate Gen. Robert E Lee of Unionville, VA. Elizabeth's mother died when she was three or four years old and she spent most of her youth with an aunt who served Edward Lee. As the daughter of slaves owned by Robert E. Lee and his brothers, Edward and Harvey Lee of Unionville, VA., she had come a long way. She was not certain of the exact date she was born in a tiny log cabin on the Lee estate. "Those days they didn't keep records," she explained. "Nobody ever told us when we were born or how old we were." She used to say she was born in 1873. That was the best approximation she could make. But her daughter, Serena, said that 1865, the closing date of the Civil War, would be nearer the truth. Serena fixed the date by her mother's vivid recollection of seeing General Robert E. Lee when he was president of Washington and Lee University. Lee served as head of the university from the end of the Civil War until his death in 1870. Elizabeth left Virginia when she was about 25 years old.

Elizabeth would push back the white knotted handkerchief she wore over her hair before she embarked on the Robert E. Lee story. "He was a fine figure of a man," she would say. "He rode upon his horse, Blaze, and I saw him standing there saying goodbye to my folks. Then he rode away over the mountains. I asked my aunt who he was and she told me, "That was General Robert E Lee" Her recollections of the old estate were vivid. "We had a good life," she related "The Lee's were nice people and they treated us fine. We had our own cabin and we got a share of the crops. My aunt's kids used to eat at the same table with the Lee's, sometimes."

In 1897, Elizabeth was married to Charles S. Johnson in Newbury, NY and worked for a few years at the Burr and Burton School in Manchester before settling in Rutland. They had four children, Franklin, May, Gordon and Serena.

When Elizabeth set up housekeeping for herself, she stopped working out as a cook and began taking in laundry. She worked 15 hours a day on her own account in her comfortable home at 11 Terrill Street, where she lived with two sons and one daughter. Her husband Charles S. Johnson was a barber and although separated in 1925, they both resided at the Terrill Street address for many years where Charles had his barbershop in the back of the building. Elizabeth's kitchen always overflowed with the laundry that kept her busy from 9 am to Midnight, but, there was always room enough to prepare the abundant meals that graced her table. There was an upright piano in the living room for "Razz" and a fine radio and victrola with several albums of neatly catalogued jazz records.

Elizabeth's husband died in 1947. Her son Franklin died in 1949 and her daughter May who had married and lived in Troy, NY, died in 1939. Elizabeth died on October 19, 1953 at the age of 86.

Elizabeth's son, Gordon "Razz" Johnson, is still remembered by many area residents for his musical talent. In his youth he worked days as a cook at Handley's Restaurant on West Street and nights as a member of Burns Martin's orchestra. He was able to play piano, clarinet and saxophone and most everything else. ["Buster" Keating, a cousin of mine had an orchestra and used to play around New England and upstate New York. He remembered Razz as a fill-in for the saxophone player when Keating's orchestra played at Lake Bomoseen. Small world!!]. It was noted that "Razz" could play "Dinah" on the piano like nobody's business, and was even better than Duke Ellington. "Razz" worked for F.W. Woolworth Company for 30 years. He was Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus and a Knight of the 4th Degree of the Msgr. John M. Brown Assembly. He died on June 2, 1981 at the age of 75. His sister Serena was his only survivor and she died at age 72 on August 18, 1988.

A very youthful "Razz" and his well known smile is pictured with Mildred Egelston.

#170

Tidbits from Then and Now

Oct 2, 2002

Rutland Daily Herald, December 24, 1935

Rutland Woman, 95, gets Old-age Check

Within one hour after the arrival of the afternoon mail from Montpelier, Mrs. Bridget Duffy, 95, of 142 Library Avenue, one of the oldest persons in Vermont to qualify for the old-age pension, was presented with a \$15.00 certified check. It was the first to be presented in Rutland and the second in the state.

William L. Seward, president of the Rutland Order of Eagles, made the presentation in company with Mayor Henry H. Branchaud, United States Marshall Edward L. Burke, Angelo J. Spero and Jack A. Crowley of the Eagles "old-age" pension committee.

Tears flowed down the woman's cheek when check #2 was given to her on behalf of the "State of Vermont and the Order of Eagles." The letter containing the check was delivered to Mayor Branchaud shortly after 4 o'clock in the afternoon. It carried a special delivery stamp. The Mayor immediately notified Seward and the others who were present. Mrs. Duffy received the check at 5 o'clock.

The Eagles were granted the privilege of presenting it because of their long interest and effort on behalf of the old-age assistance law. [Notice that this was not Social Security] This was the only check to be so presented. All others were mailed directly to the grantees.

Certificate #1 and the accompanying check were mailed to a 98-year old man in the northern part of the state, these were the oldest persons in Vermont to qualify for assistance.

A total of 143 persons in the city of Rutland qualified for state old-age assistance, it was announced by Mayor Henry H. Branchaud, following receipt of a communication from W. Arthur Simpson of Montpelier, state director. The number of persons in Rutland County who received the pension totaled 1107.

The first pension checks were delivered in 1935. According to all reports Mrs. Duffy was 95. But, and here comes a "Where's Waldo" game with Mrs. Duffy's age being the challenge to find!

The 1920 census lists Mrs. Duffy as age 75, which would make her 90 in 1935. In the city records, at the time of Mrs. Duffy's death on January 20, 1937, she is listed as 87 (possibly a typo, and should be 97 if she was 95 when she received the check in 1935). But, on her gravestone, Bridget Carroll Duffy is listed: 1834 - 1937, which makes her 103 years old! and she would have been 101 years old in 1935! THEN, according to the death record at City Hall, her birth date is unknown--(information given by daughter, Mary A. Duffy)-Bridget was born in Ireland.

Oct 9, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

World Series time is here again. People gather in front of TVs to watch the games, either at home or in local bars. They might even go or form a group to go directly to the games. In Rutland's past, there was a very unique way of following the progress of the games. Ticker tape carried the message and play-by-play accounts were posted on a baseball diamond in the window of a local business on Center Street. The picture shows a portion of the crowd watching the scoreboard around 1910. By 1927, a Boston radio station was broadcasting the World Series. Perhaps that is what brought about the following article.

Rutland Herald, October 8, 1927

FANS HERE NOT OVER GENEROUS IN ANTEING UP

Sums Dropped Into Hat Too Small To Pay For World's Series Reports

With the possibility of only one game left to be played, the "unofficial" scorers of the World's Series games who conduct the score board on Center Street are in a fair way to lose money by their attempts to entertain local fans with a play-by-play account of the games.

While their losses are not exceedingly heavy, many fans who dig a little deeper than others when the hat is circulated through the crowd during the seventh inning each day are of the opinion that the cooperation afforded the men bringing the news here direct from the playing field is anything but commendable.

Those in charge of the board are running it merely for the sake of keeping the fans posted on the progress of the battles and get nothing whatever for their time and trouble. Consequently many consider it no more than right that those making use of the service should be willing to cooperate a little more generously.

On Wednesday \$25 was collected; Thursday, \$23 and yesterday \$22, making the deficiency something like \$10. Unless the crowds watching the board each day become liberal as the series is brought to a close the men in charge are very likely to discover that their public service is its own reward, and a somewhat costly service, too.

Does anyone know if 1927 was the last time the World Series game scores were displayed on Center Street?

Oct 16, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

There is a lot fuss about expense accounts when people run for a political office. Are they spending their own money? Are they taking money that they shouldn't? Just who is backing them?

A delightful find among the L.E. Egelston scrapbook collection of newspaper clippings was the following item:

SPENT TWO CENTS IN PRIMARY RACE**John Pollard, Democrat, Had Lowest Expense Account of Any County Candidate Who Made Expenditures; C.W. Spencer Was Highest With \$683.25**

Rutland County candidates in the recent primary election have filed their expense accounts with the State in accordance with the State law. The individual accounts are as follows:

L.J. Egelston, county senator, Republican; stamps, \$10.50; printing, \$23.50; gasoline, \$1.32; envelopes, \$2; newspaper advertising, \$8.93; total, \$46.25.

E.W. Lawrence, county senator, Republican: primary petition, \$5; postage, \$3; total, \$8.

Cecil McIntyre, Danby, county senator, Republican: dinner, Granville, NY, \$.75; dinner, Poultney, \$1; 10 gallons gasoline, \$2 [now, if only!]; two quarts of oil, \$.50; total \$4.25.

Judge Leo E. Pratt, county senator, Republican: printing, \$5; auto hire, \$15.50; stationary, \$2; telephone calls, \$2; gasoline and oil, \$10; total, \$36.50.

Charles W. Spencer, county senator, Republican: printing, \$166; postage, \$380; newspaper advertising, \$9.10; Rutland Business College, [wonder if they did his mailings for him?] \$19.50; cigars, two parties, \$46.25; total, \$683.25.

Mrs. T.W. Moloney, John B. Candon, John Leyden, John Woods, county senators, Democrats: no expenditures.

Edwin Horton, S.R. Hitchcock, assistant Judges, Republican: no expenditures.

Charles Granger, Rutland City assistant judge, Democrat, no expenses; John H. Pollard, Fair Haven, Democrat: 2 cents for postage.

Harvey R. Kingsley, judge of probate first district, Republican; postage, 8 cents; advertising, \$11.08; Charles W. Pennington, judge of probate, first district, Democrat: no expenses.

Henry L. Clark, Castleton, judge of probate, second district, Republican: no expenses.

Lawrence C. Jones, state's attorney, Republican: \$5. for primary petitions.

Henry R. Adams, sheriff, Republican: postage 16 cents; Timothy Conklin, sheriff, Democrat: no expenses.

What a difference time, economic progress and change in society make! Think smart, choose and vote for your candidates in November, let the politicians worry about their expenditures!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Oct 23, 2002

Sisters, Ann and Grace Librizzi, JUN 1925

Ann Bizzaro & Grace Librizzi, 2002

The 1925 picture is a sample of the negatives that the Rutland Historical Society was given. The negatives have been alphabetized and numbered and protected in acid free notebooks, so that they can be quickly located. The dates of the negatives run from 1925 to 1935. During the 1927 and 1947 floods many families lost photos and the possibility of someone finding a family member among the names listed might exist. A note of caution, the spelling of the names are as the photographer heard them. The Rutland Historical Society wishes to thank Sam's Good News for printing this extensive list as a public service to the community. The Society will make arrangements for the printing of negatives at the expense of the person locating a family picture. Call the Society at 775-2006, leave a message if there is no volunteer there at that time. The Society is open on Monday evening 6-9 pm and Saturday 1-4 pm.

Abbey, Nellie, SEP 1933
Abraham, Jack, JUN 1931
Achilles, H.H., OCT 1932, Hartland, Man
Ahonen, Asarias, Healdville, Man
Allen, A.V., NOV 1931, Man
Allen, Miss, JUN 1934, Fair Haven
Allum, Ole, JUN 1931, Man
Altrua, A.L. SEP 1931, Female child
Archabald, J.W., Ludlow
Astheimes, Mrs., AUG 1933
Ayers, Reta, DEC 1932, Brandon
Bacon, Roger, NOV 1934, Baby
Baker, MAY 1925, Rutland, Child & dog
Baker, baby, DEC 1931
Baldwin, Chas., NOV 1934
Ball, Dr., MAY 1934
Bania, Tom, APR 1931
Barker, Miss, JUN 1932
Barter, Mr., JUL 1932
Barter, Webster, JUN 1934, Man
Barthelmew, R., AUG 1934, Man
Baskan, S. NOV 1934, Man
Bassett, Don, DEC 1931, Pittsford, Man & woman
Bassett, D.A., FEB 1932, Baby, mother, father & child
Bean, Mr., JUN 1934
Beck, Dr. & Mrs., NOV 1934
Bell, B.D., FEB 1935, Man
Bellerose, D., MAY 1932, Man

Benson, Mr. & Mrs., NOV 1931
 Berry, R.N., JUN 1931, Man
 Berry, R.B., NOV 1933, Man
 Best, Dan, DEC 1933, Fair Haver
 Billado, Mr., JUN 1925
 Bioty, Joe, JUL 1925, West Rutla
 Bixler, D.H., SEP 1931, Proctor,
 Bizon, son, SEP 1925, 107 Robbi
 Blad [Blod], Carl, SEP 1931
 Blanchard, Cornelia, SEP 1925
 Blanchard, DEC 1933, Man
 Blanchard, Mrs. JUL 1934, 3 chil
 Boity, Mrs. J, "Blackeye"
 Bolleslia, Mr., OCT 1933
 Boniac, children, MAR 1925
 Bostford, Frank, JUN 1925, Fair
 Bottom, JUN 1934, man
 Bouley, R. NOV 1933, Wallingfc
 Bowen, Lena, JUL 1925
 Boyton, C.P. MAY 1925, Family
 Bradford, Billie, APR 1932
 Braker, Mr., OCT 1933
 Branshaw, Miss, APR 1931
 Brecklin, K.F., MAR 1934, Man
 Brehmer, B.A., APR 1931
 Brehmer, Jean, FEB 1935
 Brehmer, Caroline, MAR 1935
 Brenhower, Mr., JUN 1934
 Bresnehan, P.J., DEC 1932
 Brooks, Guy, SEP 1933
 Brown, R., MAR 1925, 3 Nickwa
 Brown, Sheriff, SEP 1925, Pittsfi
 Brown, Mr. & Mrs., JAN 1932
 Bruce, Wm., Young man
 Bruce, Mr., NOV 1934
 Brunelle, J.P., SEP 1925, 126 O:
 Bunker, Julia & friend, DEC 193
 Burke, family, JAN 1935, 7 peop
 Burns, Robt., SEP 1932
 Burns, Cecil, MAR 1934
 Burquion, Mrs., JUN 1925
 Bush, John, NOV 1931
 Bushee, Mr. JUN 1925, Woman
 Butler, Judge, APR 1925
 Byrnes, Miss Helen, JUN 1925, 1
 Cafaro, Front, MAY 1931

Calahan, Jim, NOV 1933
 Cameron, Miss, APR 1931
 Campbell, Mrs., DEC 1931
 Cannan, Mrs. MAY 1925, Rutland, Man & chidlren & woman
 Capron, Mr., SEP 1932, Woman
 Carpenter, family, APR 1925, Salvation Army
 Carpenter, Bert, APR 1931, Young man
 Carr, Mrs., JUN 1931
 Carvett, M.C., JUN 1925, Woman
 Cassen, Mrs., MAY 1931
 Cattozi, Andrew, JUN 1934
 Cavacas, Antonia, NOV 1931
 Chaffee, Miss, JAN 1932
 Chalmers, Ruth, AUG 1933
 Chapin, [Gentleman], FEB 1925, West Rutland
 Charion, Arthur, DEC 1934, Fair Haven
 Charlton, Mr. & Mrs., JUN 1932
 Chinese man, SEP 1932
 Chinese men #2, OCT 1933
 Chinese men #3, JUL 1934
 Chor, Phillip, DEC 1931, Orwell, Man & woman
 Christian, Leo, AUG 1934, Orwell, Baby
 Chruciel, Martin, MAY 1934, West Rutland
 Clares, Rev.C., MAY 1934, Pittsford
 Clement, P W., SEP 1925
 Clorres, Rev., AUG 1934
 Connant, JUN 1925, Man
 Connor, Mary, DEC 1931, Pittsford
 Cook, Mr. [Chas?], JUL 1931
 Cook, Dr., OCT 1934
 Corey, Mrs., APR 1931
 Coty, Mr., JUN 1931, Male grad
 Cramton, Walter, MAY 1931
 Crawford, Mrs. M.H., MAR 1932, Female child
 Crawford, Mrs., MAR 1935, Woman
 Crowley, Miss K., MAY 1931
 Crowley, Mr., JUL 1931
 Curtis, Kenneth, JUN 1934, Rochester, VT
 Cutting, Mrs. G., MAR 1934
 Dailey, Baby, DEC 1932, 40 Williams St.
 Dale, Robert, SEP 1925
 Dalto, A., JUL 1931
 Dankanics, John, SEP 1934, Proctor
 Davies, Rev., DEC 1934, 2 girls
 Davis, Morris, SEP 1933, Chittenden, Family
 Davis, Robt., DEC 1933, Baby

DeGregvian, Grel, MAR 1932
 Denton, Tom, AUG 1932, Cavendish
 Dickerman, Mr., JUN 1934
 Dickerson, E.H., DEC 1934, Woman
 Doner, Mrs., FEB 1932, Child
 Dow, A.J., OCT 1933, Pittsford
 Dragoon, Mrs. Grant, JUN 1931
 Duclo, Harvey, OCT 1933, Ludlow, 1
 Dulski, John, MAY 1925, Ctr. Rutland
 Dulski, Stela, DEC 1931, West Rutland
 Dunbar, Mrs. F., AUG 1932, Manches
 Dunmore, Mrs. W. R., MAY 1931
 Durrick, Mr., JUL 1934
 Duval, Perevine, JUL 1925, Man; man
 Dwyer, Lena, OCT 1932
 Dyer, Katherine, JUN 1925
 Earry, Hugh, NOV 1931
 Eaton, M., JUL 1925
 Ebens, W.H., MAY 1932, Woman
 Eddy, Caroline, M., DEC 1931, No. Cl
 Edholm, Mrs., AUG 1925
 Edson, Mr. & Mrs., AUG 1925
 Edson, Mr., APR 1932, child
 Eitipence, Marjorie, DEC 1931, Chest
 Ellis, T.L., NOV 1931, Man
 Ellis, Dr., MAY 1932
 Engrem, A.B., MAR 1932, Man
 Ennis, J.J., OCT 1933, Peru, Man
 Felter, John, MAY 1932, West Rutland
 Felter, John, FEB 1934, West Rutland
 Field, .L., AUG 1925
 Fifield, Mrs., AUG 1925
 Fillipo, MAY 1925, Man
 Firliet, John, JAN 1934
 Fischer, Miss, JUL 1925, Proctor
 Fish,, H.W., JUN 1925, Ira
 Fiske, Helen, JUN 1931
 Foley, Frank, MAR 1935, Leceister
 Formato, Anielo, OCT 1933, 116 Post
 Frank, family, JUL 1925, Cherry St., F
 Fregosi, Geno, NOV 1932, Group of 4
 Frost, I. M., MAR 1934, Man
 Fuller, Leola, AUG 1925, Ludlow
 Fuller, G.H., DEC 1932, Child
 Fusco, Mrs., MAY 1934
 Gaitano, MAR 1925, West Rutland

Gale, Geo. P. SEP 1931, Ludlow
 Gallo, Miss, OCT 1931, Man
 Gallo, Miss, JUL 1933
 Gana, Fred, JUN 1925, Infant
 Garvin, L., JUL 1933, Woman
 Gibbs, Alma, MAR 1932, Rochester, VT
 Gibbs, Constance, FEB 1934
 Gilmore, Baby, DEC 1934, Baby
 Glandville, Harry, SEP 1931, Man & woman
 Gleason, Miss, JUN 1932
 Godfrey, E. A., SEP 1931, Woman
 Godzik, John, APR 1925, West Rutland
 Goodyear, Mrs., APR 1925
 Gorruso, Mrs., FEB 1933
 Gray, Miss, JUN 1932
 Gronola, Dimitri, OCT 1932, 8 Garden St., Proctor, Baby
 Grover, H., DEC 1931, Man
 Guertin, Genevive, OCT 1933, West Rutland
 Gustavson, Mr., MAR 1935
 Guynup, E. & A. Paul, MAR 1925
 Haeins, John, JUN 1934, Mt. Holly
 Haley, JUL 1931, Man
 Halpin, Major, APR 1931, Family
 Hanfield, Geo., MAR 1935
 Hannon, Mary, SEP 1932
 Harrington, E.S. Jr., DEC 1931, Jackson Ave., Rutland
 Harvey, H.O. Jr., OCT 1931, Rochester, NY, 2 children
 Hatton, H. A., JUN 1933, Man
 Heath, Laurel, MAR 1934, Young woman
 Heavy, SEP 1925, Male teenager
 Heine, John, JUN 1931
 Hesse, Mr. & Mrs., SEP 1925
 Hewes, Mr., MAY 1933
 Hewett, Mr., DEC 1934
 Hickley, Martha, OCT 1932
 Higbee, Paul, FEB 1932, Proctor
 Hill, T. K., AUG 1925, Man
 Hinchey, Rachel, DEC 1932, Man & woman
 Hinchey, Frank, FEB 1935
 Hintley, Granchild, MAY 1925, Man & child
 holden, Miss, SEP 1925, Castleton
 Holms, family, SEP 1925, Proctor
 Holway, G., AUG 1925, Man
 Honkins, Cecil, JUL 1931, Wallingford
 Honson, R., JUL 1931, Man
 Hood, SEP 1925, Infant

Horvath, Chas., NOV 1932, Proctor
 Howard, Bertha, NOV 1934, Ludlow
 Howe, Mrs. L. S., NOV 1931, Baby
 Hughes, Mr., OCT 1931, Fair Haven
 Hughes, D. AUG 1933, Ludlow, Ma
 Humphrey, Mr., DEC 1932
 hyland, B., JUL 1931
 Ives, Mr. & Mrs., JUL 1931
 Jerry, Mr. & Mrs., FEB 1925
 Johnson, Geo. D., JUL 1934, Proctor
 Johnson, FEB 1935, Man
 Jones, Fletcher, 2 South Maple, Grar
 Joyce, T.J., DEC 1931, Proctor
 Joyce, P.J., MAY 1932, Proctor
 Joyce, Mr., MAY 1932
 Kaartine, Andrew, OCT 1933
 Kamuda, Genevieve, JUL 1925, Wes
 Kapusta, Peter, OCT 1931
 Karzalaiener, Alex, SEP 1931, Ludlc
 Kaspshak, John, APR 1925, Women
 Keinamen, Robt., MAR 1932, 1 won
 Kelly, JUL 1931, Chas. Carswell, W
 Kendall, F., NOV 1933, Woman
 Kerrier, Mabel, JAN 1935
 Kibby, baby, SEP 1934, Baby in car
 Kingsbury, Muriel, MAY 1934, Cav
 Kinsley, Mr. & Mrs., JUL 1931
 Kinsman, Mabel, NOV 1931, Girl ch
 Kinsman, B.M., DEC 1934, Woman
 Kish, Paul, SEP 1931
 Kish, Mr., FEB 1932
 Kiviski, Arvid, APR 1934
 Klock, Mrs., APR 1925, Wallingforc
 Knipes, wedding, APR 1931
 Kovach, Alec, JAN 1933
 Kovack, Paul, SEP 1934
 Kovacs, Erna, APR 1931, Pittsford
 Kovacs, Mrs., OCT 1934, Pittsford
 Laclaire, Mr., NOV 1934
 Lady, (Davis office), JAN 1934
 Lamb, Mr., MAY 1931
 Lamphear, MAY 1934, Man
 Lamphere, Mr., JUN 1934, West Ru
 Lamphere, JUL 1934, Man & woma
 LaPlack, Martin, JUN 1925, West R
 Lapre, Paul, OCT 1933, Healdville
 Larsen, Ruth, APR 1931, Eden Ave., Proctor
 Leach, JAN 1935, Man
 Leahey, Mr., JAN 1932
 Lebinsky, Helen, JUL 1932, Graduation
 Lelorne, F. N., DEC 1932, Danby, Child
 Leonti, S., SEP 1932, Proctor
 Lertola, Louis, SEP 1931, Infant
 Lewis, Herbert, NOV 1931, Woman
 Lewis, Mrs. Ernest, DEC 1931, E. Poultney
 Liberezzi, Leo, JUN 1925, Ctr. Rutland, 2 girls
 Listzman, Thomas, MAY 1931
 Litzman, T., FEB 1935, Proctor
 Livak, Metzu, JUN 1933, Young man
 Loomis, Mrs. Mertie, B., 1925, Proctor
 Louras, Miss, MAR 1934
 Loveland, Mr., OCT 1933, Ctr. Rutland
 Lucchina, Lucy, APR 1925, Pittsford
 Ludwig, Rose, MAR 1932
 Lunt, Mrs., FEB 1935, Grandchildren
 Lynch, Mary & dau., JUN 1933, Mother & daughter
 Mahaffy, M. R., FEB 1932, Proctor
 Mahew, Miss Sadie, DEC 1931, Rutland City
 Mahler, M. O., DEC 1934, Children
 Make Work Men, SEP 1933
 Maki, Martin, SEP 1931, Ludlow, Women & man
 Maki, Martin, JUL 1931, Man & woman
 Malgram, Mr. & family, APR 1925
 Manley, infant, SEP 1931
 Manley, H. SEP 1931, Baby
 Manner, John, AUG 1932, Proctorsville
 Manning, WM., JUN 1925, Cedar Grove Hotel, Castleton
 Mannings, bottlers, SEP 1933, Man
 Marceleo, Ada, MAY 1925
 Martin, Dr., MAR 1932
 Martin, Louie, FEB 1935, Middlebury
 Mason, Clark, JUN 1931
 Mason, Mr., DEC 1932, Young man
 Mason, Mrs., DEC 1932, Women
 McDebvitt, S. J., JUL 1931, Man
 McDonald, AUG 1931, Fair Haven, Man
 McFadden, Dr., APR 1931, Patient
 McKeogh, Miss, DEC 1931, Children
 McKeough, children, SEP 1931, 5 +2 women & 2 infants
 McMahon, JUL 1931, Man
 McNally, Echer, JUL 1925, Woman
 Meldon, Mrs., MAY 1931

Mercier, & friends, FEB 1932, "Gloom Cha
 Metzger, Mrs. W. C., OCT 1934
 Millard, Clarence, APR 1925, Mid. Granvil
 Miller, Dorothy, DEC 1932
 Millington, Mr., NOV 1933
 Mills, Mr. & Mrs. D.H., DEC 1931, Brando
 Mills, Bertine, JUL 1932, Woman grad
 Mills, Beatrice, FEB 1934
 Miners, Mrs., JUL 1934
 Monette, Miss, FEB 1935
 Moneville, John, AUG 1925, Sherburne
 Moody, child, JUL 1925
 Mooney, Andrew, JUL 1931
 Mooney, E. R., DEC 1932, Man
 Moore, Leon A., DEC 1931, Fair Haven, Ct
 Moore, N. R., JUL 1933, Man
 Morciou, A., SEP 1925, Danby, Young mer
 Morris, W., FEB 1933, Man
 Morrison, Beatrice, JUN 1925, Pittsford
 Morse, Chas., JUL 1931
 Morse, Robt., JUL 1931
 Morse, R., FEB 1932, Baby
 Morton, Mrs. D., AUG 1932, And friend
 Mulcahey, Mrs., SEP 1931, 2 young men; 1
 Mullin, F.J., JAN 1934
 Murphy, JUN 1925, Pittsford, Young man
 Myk, Peniuk, NOV 1932, ludlow
 Navil, Mr., FEB 1935
 Newell, Mrs., APR 1931
 Newell, Bill, Orchestra, DEC 1932
 Newton, Dorothy, JUL 1931
 Nociti, Anthony, NOV 1932, Whitehall, NY
 Nourse, Mr. & Mrs. R. G., DEC 1931, Fore
 Nourse, Mrs. P., JAN 1932
 Noyes, G.M., APR 1931, Cuttingsville, Mai
 Nuthendent, and friend, APR 1931, 3 young
 O'Connell, FEB 1935, Man
 Oliver, Stanley, MAY 1932
 Onion, Mr. & Mrs., JUL 1931
 Orchutt, F.B., JUL 1932, Chester, VT
 Osias, Zack, MAR 1934
 Owen, Rev. J.D., OCT 1931
 Page, baby, DEC 1932
 Palmer, Insurance man, JUN 1925
 Papas, Mr., AUG 1931
 Papas, and friend, JAN 1934, Men

Parmenter, Mrs., JUN 1927
 Parron, Mrs.
 Pasno, Irene, NOV 1931, c/o Watkins, Female child
 Patch, Mrs. & F. R., JUL 1931
 Patch, Mr. & Mrs., APR 1933, Family of 4
 Patton, C., NOV 1931, West Rutland, Man
 Paul, A. & E. Guynup, MAR 1925
 Perkins, Robt., FEB 1932, Man
 Perry, Mr., JUL 1931
 Perry, Mr., DEC 1931
 Perry, M. J., DEC 1933, Baby
 Perry, M. J., MAY 1935, Infant
 Phelps, M. M., DEC 1933, Woman
 Pike, Mrs., FEB 1925
 Plocka, M., JUL 1925, Man
 Plumley, E., Ludlow
 Pond, Mrs., AUG 1925
 Pond, Miss, MAR 1932
 Pond, Mary, NOV 1934
 Powers, Mr., JUN 1932
 Powers, Miss, JUN 1934
 Pratt, James, FEB 1933
 Pratt, Grace, FEB 1934, No. Clarendon
 Prevenscom, AUG 1934, Child; adult; w/harp & horn
 Proctor, M., AUG 1931
 Proctor, Mrs. Mortimer, SEP 1933
 Proctor, Redfield, FEB 1934
 Proctor, Mrs. Redfield
 Pyenta, Stanley, MAR 1932, Poultney
 Quenneville, Hector, NOV 1935, Man & 2 men
 Quesnel, H., MAY 1933, Man
 Ragucci, Arthur, MAY 1934, Ludlow
 Raleigh, Miss, MAY 1932
 Randall, Mrs. Don, FEB 1935, Fair Haven
 Raymond, Mr., JAN 1934
 Raymond, Mr. & Mrs., AUG 1932
 Reynolds, Mrs. C., MAR 1932
 Reynolds, Chas., FEB 1932
 Reynolds, Mr., APR 1933
 Reynolds, Miss, MAR 1934
 Reynolds, Mrs. E., MAY 1934, Proctor
 Richer, Mr., FEB 1932
 Riley, Mary, JUN 1931
 Roberts, J.R., JUL 1932, Bethel, Woman
 Robido, Mr., JUL 1931
 Robinson, AUG 1925, Brandon, Woman

Rogers, Dr., JUL 1934, Pittsford
Romson, Mr., JUL 1931
Rose, Virginia, JAN 1934
Roskowsky, Elizabeth, JUL 1932
Ross, Mrs., DEC 1933, 112 No. Main St., Baby
Ross, A., FEB 1934
Rowell, Mr., APR 1933, Fair Haven
Rut. Rest., Man at, APR 1934, Passport
Ryan, Chas., JUN 1932
Ryan, Mr., MAY 1933, Young men
Sahlberg, Alex, JUN 1933, West Rutland
Salminen, M/M Joseph, APR 1932, Proctor
Scout, DEC 1933, 5 scouts & 1 neval uniform
Sheldon, Miss Hasy M., AUG 1931, Dorset
Sherman, DEC 1934, three children
Shippy, JUL 1925, Man
Shippy, Miss, DEC 1931, Temple t., Rutland
Simonds, Marie, AUG 1925, Sudbury
Smith, Effie M., APR 1925, Pittsford
Smith, Mrs. A., APR 1931
Smith, Shirley, JUL 1931, Orwell
Smith, Mrs. R., SEP 1931
Smith, Mrs., OCT 1931, "For Herald"
Smith, Mrs. E., OCT 1931
Smith, Mrs., Geo., MAY 1934, Fair Haven
Smith, Bessie, NOV 1934
Snell, Mrs., MAR 1925
Spaulding, Marie, APR 1932
Spencer, R.J., APR 1931, Proctor
St. Clair, MAY 1933, Woman
Stafford, B.L., APR 1931
Stanley, Mrs., APR 1934
Steward, R.E., MAR 1933
Stickney, Mr. B.C., APR 1925, Main St., Rutland
Stillwell, E.L., OCT 1931
Stinhour, Mr. S.K., DEC 1931, Stratton Road, Rutland, Family
Strube, Mr., JUL 1934
Supete, Elizabeth, MAY 1932, Proctor
Suzanki, Zac, AUG 1931, Proctor
Tailor, Peat, FEB 1935, Man
Taranovich, Stanley, OCT 1934, Proctor
Tatarinovic, S., AUG 1931, Proctor, Man
Taylor, F., AUG 1931, Woman
Taylor, Florence, SEP 1933, 2 women
Telephone group, AUG 1925, 5 negatives; 12 AUG
Terenzini, JUN 1925, Man (broken plate)

Thayer, Paul, MAR 1932
 Thomas, Margaret, APR 1932, Fair Haven, Child
 Thompson, Mrs., SEP 1931
 Thompson, J.B., AUG 1933, Man & woman
 Tinney, MAR 1934, Man
 Toshjian, Mr., JAN 1933, Man
 Town, Mrs. E.V., DEC 1931, Sherburne Ctr., Woman & child
 Tracy, Mr., APR 1932
 Travers, G., APR 1925
 Trayonia, Ray, JUL 1931
 Trimlor, baby, DEC 1933, Girl
 Turin, Mrs., JAN 1932, Sanatorium, Pittsf
 Turner, Mrs., NOV 1934
 Tuttle, Chas., DEC 1934
 Twigg, Mrs., JUL 1925
 Valach, Mrs. Victor, DEC 1934
 Vancellette, Rev., DEC 1934
 Vaughan, M., SEP 1933, Man
 Vladyka, Miss Josephina, MAY 1931
 Vogel, Rob, NOV 1931
 Voyette, Mrs., JAN 1934
 Wait, Mrs. Mabel, DEC 1931
 Walker, D., FEB 1932, Man
 Walsh, AUG 1925, Man
 Walsh, Mrs., AUG 1925
 Walsh, D.J., JUL 1931
 Warren, Alice, MAY 1925, Wallingford
 Washburn, Leonard, SEP 1925, Brandon
 Wasicki, Jake, JAN 1934
 Waterhouse, Lindsey C., Apr 1933
 Waterlund, NOV 1933, Girl child
 Webber, Mr., APR 1931
 Webster, F.E., OCT 1933, Family
 Webster, Janet, OCT 1934, Child
 Weeks, Mr., APR 1931
 Weeks, Mike, NOV 1933, West Rutland
 Wells, Mr., DEC 1933
 Welsh, Miss, MAY 1931
 Wetmore, Mrs. T., AUG 1931
 White, Mrs., DEC 1931
 White, W.H., DEC 1931, 109 Library Ave
 Whitney, Mr., SEP 1925
 Wierzbicki, Walter, SEP 1931, Cavendish
 Wierzbicki, Joe, JUN 1932, Proctorsville
 Wilbur, Mr. R.O., DEC 1931, So. Walling
 Wilburn R.E., JAN 1932
 Wilbur, Ray, DEC 1932, Man & woman
 Wilder, Mr., OCT 1931, Man with musical instruments
 Willard, Clifford, OCT 1933, Baby girl
 Willett, Mrs., NOV 1934
 Williams, Charlotte, JAN 1935
 Winters, Mrs. H.M., APR 1925, Brandon
 Wiskoski, Stanley, DEC 1933
 Wong, Seng, OCT 1933, Chinese boy
 Wood, Mr. & Mrs., OCT 1931
 Wood, Ray, DEC 1934, Fair Haven
 Wright, Clark, APR 1931, Woman
 Wuounen, Mr., JUN 1931
 Wynn, Mr., MAY 1932
 Yellberg, Gus, AUG 1933
 Yloman, Everst, APR 1934, Man
 Zamboam, Miss, JUL 1931

Tidbits from Then and Now

Oct 30, 2002

Rutland Weekly Herald, November 13, 1902

One of the most important real estate transfers which has taken place in this city for some time occurred when Charles E. Barker sold his livery stable property on Center Street to Herman W. Vaughan of Brookline. This is a valuable bit of property, having a frontage of about 80 feet and a depth of 126 feet. It is located between the Rutland Savings Bank and the Richardson livery stable properties. It has been used as a livery stable for nearly 50 years. William E. Barker, who is now running a stable in the property, holds a lease which expires April 1, 1903. He said that he would remain there until his lease expired, when he would probably move his stock into his Willow Street stable.

Rumors where in circulation on the street that this transfer might mean a new block on Center Street, but when Mr. Vaughan was asked, he said he had formed no definite plans. He thought he could see an excellent opportunity in the property as it is located in the center of the business portion of the city.

By 1911, Mr. Barker had moved to his livery stable at 102 Willow Street. A building containing other businesses stood on the property as seen in this 1913 postcard photo. A.A. Prouse ran U Wanta Lunch [Don't you just love the name?]; N.M. Bradley had high grade pianos and organs; The Railway Light and Power Company was also located in the building.[This building still exists] The small wooden building with the horses and wagons waiting in the street is the J.J. Morse & Son Livery [previously Richardson' Livery]. The large Richardson Building contained many offices and stores [as it does today]. The postcard was sent to a friend by Fred Foster, who was a teamster [drove horse wagons], and lived at 15 Meadow Street. He noted that correspondence should be sent to Barker's Stable. [which by then was on Willow Street].

In 1913, the livery stable on Center Street was removed and in 1914 The Playhouse [now the Paramount] stood proudly in the area that was predicted as "an excellent location" in the center of the business portion of the city.

Nov 6, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

November 1, 1952

Flames Destroy Old, Covered Billings Bridge

Historic Billings bridge at the foot of Park Street, one of the last covered bridges in the area was destroyed by fire on Halloween. The bridge, closed for about three weeks, was "undoubtedly set afire," an official of the Rutland Fire Department said. He said he didn't know whether or not it was a Halloween prank, but every indication was that the bridge was purposely set ablaze.

The Rutland Fire department received the alarm from police at 11:00 PM. When firemen arrived at the scene the entire structure was burning from end to end. The blaze sent billows of spark clouds soaring into the night air over Otter Creek, attracting a large crowd of residents to the area. Within two minutes after firemen arrived the ancient wooden span collapsed into Otter Creek. The fire continued to eat away at the timbers slanting down to the water from the abutments until after midnight.

Rutland Town selectmen had been debating whether to restore or replace the bridge with a modern steel and concrete structure. The last decision of the selectmen was to leave the bridge closed during the winter and take the matter up in the spring.

Connecticut Valley Covered Bridge Bulletin; Fall 1977

The Billings Bridge was built in 1831 by Timothy K. Horton. For many years in olden times this bridge leaned noticeably, due to a lack of good bracing in the upper corners, but this condition was rectified. Billings Bridge was a Town lattice truss, which in later years had a posted load limit of eight tons, and perhaps later five. It had a very fine roof of multi-colored slate. It was located at a very picturesque bend in Otter Creek, at the farm of Avery Billings. The bend was what saved it from the flood waters in 1927, in that the main force of the current bypassed the bend and the bridge, taking a shortcut across the fields to the east. The floorboards were floated off as it was under seven feet of water in the flood. The old bridge met its demise in just the opposite way, by fire. Being located actually quite a distance from downtown Rutland, the Billings span was the scene of several incidents of robbery. But, the history of Billings Bridge is not all sordid. It was a popular place for young couples to go to be alone, away from the busy city...!

Rutland Herald, November 4, 1952

Bridge Gone

The burning of the Billings covered bridge in Rutland certainly solved the question of repair or replacement. Most people, we feel certain, will agree that it's a poor way of arriving at a solution. Despite the nostalgic fondness of many Vermonters for covered bridges--and the Billings bridge was one of the last of its kind close to Rutland--it cannot be denied that nostalgia and the convenience and safety of the motoring public don't mix too well. A lot of folks are all for saving our covered bridges, as long as it's somebody else who has to use them all the time; for themselves, they prefer a modern structure on which passing is easy and safe and which provides high visibility of the road ahead.

It may be that the fire was the result of a Halloween prank, and if so, it is deplorable and inexcusable. Since officials are convinced that the fire was set, it is to be hoped that no effort will be spared in finding and punishing the culprits.

Thanks go to Robert Cassidy for gathering this information about the Billings Bridge. The fondness for covered bridges is still very strong, so, Robert is preparing the next "Quarterly" for the Rutland Historical Society which will be in the form of a 2003 calendar picturing area covered bridges with a short biography of each bridge.

Nov 13, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Now that the cold weather has come we all have the problem of making sure our cars start. Some have automatic starters so that they can have the car warming up while they get ready to start the day. Others [like myself] must get ready, scrape and start the car. But imagine the days when you had to CRANK the car to get it started!! An ad in the January 1920 Rutland Daily Herald stated: "**Auto-Ether** Prepared especially for starting quickly your auto. Why crank your car for 15 minutes or more on these cold mornings, when only a few drops of "Auto-Ether" will cause it to start at once. **F.E.D. Farmer & Co. , The Prescription Store, 2 Merchants Row, Rutland, Vt.**" In the early 1920s, Merchants Row began at West Street, so where Beauchamp and O'Rourke was located in recent years was then 2 Merchants Row.

Note the crank on the front of this car. The picture was taken in front of the Berwick Hotel, [Center Street].

We know about the picture of the car, but can anyone help us identify the location of the house in this picture? The only clue is on the back of the picture that states: "To Mabel from Rose B". Some feel it was, or is, located in the Rutland area. Others [myself included] feel that it was more likely around the Ludlow area. We call it the **Mystery Picture**. Can you help? If so, call 775-2006 [The Rutland Historical Society] and leave a message if no one is available.

Nov 20, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 1, 1920

New Organization is to Boom Boxing Here

Century Athletic Club Plans to Stage First Class Glove Exhibitions

The Century Athletic club has been formed by a number of local people for the purpose of staging athletic events of all kinds. The committee in charge of the entertainments is composed of Edward Gerry and Albert Sharfman. It is planned to stage some high class boxing exhibitions in the city providing suitable quarters can be obtained.

The committee is already negotiating for the services of some of New England's leading exponents of the manly art of self defense to come to the city and give exhibitions. Boxing will undoubtedly be the feature sport that will be undertaken by the club, because this sport is becoming very popular throughout the whole country and at present nearly every state in the union is having these exhibitions.

The local organization plans to bring some first class attractions to the city and if sufficient interest is shown by the local fans, some of the best boxers in New England will be brought to the city. The officers of the club state that only well-trained boxers will be brought here, and only those in the best physical condition will perform. They will also have an instructor in the sport here, who will teach boxing to local boys, and it is probable that some well-known local boxers will be seen in some of the preliminary exhibitions. The exact date of the first exhibition has not been definitely settled, but it will be given out in the near future. Negotiations are also underway to secure the services of a competent referee to locate in Rutland and officiate at the exhibitions.

In almost 82 years, boxing has come and waned, but not completely. Did you note that it was the "manly art of self-defense?" Now we have women boxers! Boxing is a sport! The art of self-defense is usually categorized under the ancient arts of Karate or Tae Kwon Do. These ancient arts are more exciting and flashier as seen in movies and on TV. Many youth copy them, but fail to distinguish between the exciting exhibition and the reality of life.

Tidbits from Then and Now
January 1, 1920

Nov 27, 2002

New Truck Used to Put Out Bad Blaze

First Fire In Month

Early discovery of a small fire started near the furnace in the old school seat property on Strongs Avenue, part of which was used by the New England Table Company and another section by a shirt waist factory, probably saved the building from destruction. [Anyone aware that these businesses once existed on Strongs Avenue?] Firemen from Station 1, who responded with their new truck, found the fire burning merrily. The building was heavily loaded with inflammable material and it would have been a serious fire had the blaze obtained headway before being located. The fire caught from one of the large heating shafts running from the furnace. It was the first call answered by the fire department in over a month, the last call was on Thanksgiving Day. The city had been particularly fortunate the last few months, having practically no fires of any serious nature, while other cities in the state had some severe losses.

The fire department officials have had considerable trouble during the last few weeks with the loss of keys from the fire alarm boxes, some sections of the city being worse than others. Chief A.A. Courcelle wishes to call the attention of the parents to the seriousness of the condition which might arise through the failure to find a key in the alarm box. It is apparently the work of children and it is the desire of the officials that the younger element be warned against breaking the glass or removing the keys in the fire alarm boxes. [And we thought children back in 1920 were so well behaved!]

Remember when there were fire alarm boxes on strategic corners around the city? When the whistle blew the number of the box, everyone knew the approximate location of the fire. Of course the newer method of silent alarms was probably a blow to "fire chasers" but, it works well for the firemen!

Location of the Rutland Fire Alarm Boxes [1920]

12 Grove, cor North	36 Howe Scale Co., (private)
13 Church, cor Crescent	37 Strongs av, cor Madison
14 Church, cor Williams	38 Jackson av, cor East
15 Pine and Park av.	42 Washington, cor Merchants Row
16 Maple near Grove	43 West, cor Edson
17 Baxter, cor Maple	45 Center, cor Wales
18 State, cor Pine	47 Center, cor Merchants Row
19 Forest, cor West	51 Spruce, head of Franklin
21 Hospital, Nichols	53 Union, cor Furnace
23 West, cor Lincoln av.	54 Meadow, cor School
24 Woodstock av, cor Temple	61 Forest, head of Convent av
25 Main, cor North	63 River, cor Granger
26 Woodstock av, near Main	65 Plain, cor Granger

27 Main, cor Temple
28 Lincoln av, cor Vernon
31 Park, cor Main
32 Center, cor Main
33 Curtis av, cor Horton
34 Main head of Madison
35 East, cor Washington

71 State, cor Cleveland av
72 House of Correction, private
73 West, Chaffee Lumber Yd.
74 State, opp. Columbian Mill
75 City Park
76 C. Rut., West, cor Ripley

It was suggested that at least two additional alarm boxes be installed, one near Dana School on East Street and one near St. Peter's on Meadow Street.

The Chief Engineer and Fire marshal was Adolphus A. Courcelle
First Assistant Engineer, John P. Reedy
Second Assistant Engineer, Leon F. Pollard
Steamer Engineer, Arthur H. Pratt

Permanent Firemen:

Alfred H. Koltonski, Supt. Fire Alarm System
John H. Sheridan, Driver Station No. 2
David E. Blanchard
George E. Blanchard, Driver Station No. 1
Edgar C. Mabury
John W. Cline
Leve Laparle

Call Firemen:

John T. Cocklin
Joseph A. Courcelle
Joseph Dumouchel
Andrick C. Gravelle
Henry Hostler
Nelson A. Malmgren
Harry A. Mattison

John J. O'Brien
Charles W. Pennington
Royal Rondeau
Edgar H. Scofield
George T. Shelvey
Robert D. Temple
Julius I. Whitney

Dec 4, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Weekly Herald December 4, 1902

Rainy Day Football

In a downpour of rain and on a field where the mud was covered by two or three inches of water, the Rutland Business College and Ira football elevens struggled unsuccessfully for half an hour Thursday [Thanksgiving Day 1902] to place the pigskin behind one or the other of the goal lines. The Thanksgiving battle was witnessed by about 150 people, whose supreme emotion was that of thanksgiving that they were not among the players. Back and forth over the slippery field the contestants splashed and plowed, their clothes, hair and faces dripping with yellow mud and water. The ball was plastered and as deceitful as a greased porker, yet on the whole there were not many fumbles and the game was a decidedly enjoyable one---to watch.

The game was advertised to begin at 12 O'clock, but at that hour not a football suit was to be seen on the field. The steady rain of the last two days had watered the field thoroughly, the old baseball diamond being a mass of sticky muck and the grassy parts of the field resembling a swampy bog.

The teams finally got into line at 1:20 O'clock. Rutland took the kick-off and Ira the east goal. Butler drove the ball well into Ira's territory, the advance being short before the runner was rolled in a puddle. The visitors were apparently used to the soil, however, and got the ball off with a snap, punching Rutland's line for short gains. The two Fishes, who played half-back for the visitors, were appropriately named, and nearly every time they took the ball glided through the water for a length. Finally a bad fumble on Ira's part occurred, and Dolan bit the liquid dust with the ball beneath him. Ira did good work at this point, holding the Rutland line. The scrimmages were decidedly lively and soon that part of the field resembled nothing so much as a pig sty. Ryan took the pigskin on a fake kick and made a good gain without interference. Then Rutland tried to break down the wall of steaming flesh which lay between them and Ira's goal line. Three unsuccessful trials and it was the visitors' ball on downs.

E. Fish made a couple of good gains and once by a wide end run almost cleared the Rutland team. He was directly in the middle of the "sty" when Butler dove for him. The latter missed and slid for several feet, plowing a furrow in the mud, which piled up on each side. The runner was downed by another player in the middle of a deep puddle, and shortly after the half ended with the ball in Ira's possession near the center of the field.

The second half was much like the first. Ira kicked off only about 20 yards, Billado going pretty well under water the moment he seized the ball. Rutland lost several yards during the two following plays and then punted about 20 yards. The Ira players' endurance now began to be manifested and Rutland was unable to hold them to any extent. Fumbles on both sides added to the interest of the game, while a friendly exchange of blows on two occasions served to keep both players and spectators warm. The game ended at 2:02 O'clock with no score, and Ira's ball on Rutland's 25-yard line. The players looked like a flock of mudhens when they left the field.

The article does not state where the field was, but it might have been located between Grove and Pine Streets where Maple Village is now located. Also keep in mind that these players did not have the type of uniform that is worn today. Today's games may be exciting, but doesn't it strike you that maybe the "fun" and "humor" may be missing?

Dec 11, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Well, it doesn't seem possible that another Thanksgiving is over. That doesn't mean we need to stop being thankful for all the freedom and things that we take for granted that other countries do not have. Hopefully, thankfulness is an ongoing way of life.

Now, what comes next? CHRISTMAS!! A time for shopping, giving, taking and trying to guess what everyone on our giving list would like best. Remember when the biggest thing you could get for Christmas was a new bike? Now it's computers, TV, Videos, DVDs, motorcycles, scooters [nothing like the scooters we used to have that required leg power!]. Even today's bicycles don't require very much leg power, some are even motorized.

Speaking of bicycles. How many know that back in 1897, the Howe Scale Company added several new departments to its line of manufacture. A high grade BICYCLE was put on the market, and it was called the "Howe". The company also made a contract with the Remington-Scholes Typewriter Company to handle the entire output of the latter company. In the line of scales the Howe people perfected a grain and coal scale which automatically registered the weight of any quantity that passed through it.

Have any of you readers ever seen or heard of the "Howe" bike? Does anyone know that the Howe Scale Company dealt with Remington-Scholes Typewriters? As far as perfecting a grain and coal scale to automatically register weights, well, that was kind of expected--scales were what they made and made them so well that they marketed their scales worldwide.

It was interesting to find an article noting the "Howe" bike and I'm sure there are still many little people who will put a new bicycle on their Christmas wish list, but, it probably won't be a "Howe" that they are wishing for.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Dec 18, 2002

May 13, 1897

The largest dog in the world, "Nero", owned by Wayne Bailey of Rutland, tipped the scales at 267 pounds. Three weeks earlier when he weighed in at 244 pounds, a prominent dog fancier declared him to be the largest dog in the world. Reportedly Mr. Bailey has been urged to put "Nero" on exhibition at the big dog shows, but he has never thought it advisable.

"Nero", as every Rutland man knows, is a handsome half German and half English mastiff, fawn brindled [having dark streaks on gray or tan background] in color, his huge head being of a trifle darker shade. He sets up firmly on his legs and is remarkably well proportioned. He is as agile and lively on his feet as a cat and the other day caught a big rat in his master's barn. He makes a splendid watchdog, but is overall a kind and affectionate animal.

Mr. Bailey bought him at West Rutland when he was six months old; he is now four years old. At the time of purchase "Nero" weighed 162 pounds. The animal is a product of Mr. Winchel's Kennels at Fair Haven.

"Nero" is provided with a strong leather harness, as he cannot wear a collar. ["Nero's" large collar is in the possession of the Rutland Historical Society and is often displayed for visiting school children]. "Nero" stands up from the ground 35" and girts 50". From tip to tail he is 6' 5 1/2".

Charles L. Robinson of Rutland, has recently bought from the Pope Kennels at Hackensack, NJ a dog of the black and tan breed which is called "Chester". Mr Robinson thinks that the animal is undoubtedly the smallest dog of that breed in the state of Vermont. "Chester" weighs three pounds. His height between the shoulders is 8 1/2" and he girts 9 1/2". The dog is eight months old, but will not increase much in size. The strangest thing about "Chester" is that he is a good watchdog and permits no one to come around or enter the house during the night without making himself heard. The animal was a prize winner at the New York dog show last winter in the puppy class. "Chester" and "Nero" have not met as yet.

Dec 25, 2002

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, October 30, 1902

Some changes will be made in the train platform arrangement at the local railroad station, which will better accommodate the winter patrons of the road.

The umbrella shed covering the platform north of the station will be extended so it covers the whole main platform and new sheds of the same pattern will be built between the tracks. There will also be some changes in the track arrangement in front of the main building. A new track will be laid in the clear space just west of track number three, making four tracks that can be used for passenger trains.

Moving the baggage department to a shed built just north of the station will make room for office space for the yard master and train master who are quartered in an old passenger coach south of the station.

It is expected that the work on these improvements will be commenced within a short time and completed before the cold weather sets in.

Soldiers leave the station under the "umbrella" of the train platform

The umbrella shed covering the platform is gone. The baggage department is no longer and the train station [as memories picture it] is gone. There is a new station and the tracks are still there. But, changes are approaching and talk has it that the tracks will be moved. Amazing how history repeats itself in just 100 years!

Jan 1, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

We welcome in the year 2003 with plans for boosting the economy of the Rutland area. We are also facing the possibility of going to war in the Middle East [which we all hope can be averted]. It is interesting that in 1940 [Before the start of World War II] the Rutland Area was busy boosting the economy of the area also. They even had a theme song!

February 17, 1940 Rutland Herald

Rutland Entertainers To Be Heard Sunday in New England Broadcast

Names of Rutlanders who will be featured on a half-hour all-Rutland entertainment in the "Spreading New England's Fame" series at 6 o'clock Sunday night over the Yankee network from the local station where announced.

On the program, Billy B. Van, Mayor of Newport, NH and "Goodwill Ambassador of New England," will present Mayor Henry B. Carpenter with a parchment scroll commemorating Rutland Night on the air, signed by the city's retail merchants who are sponsoring the event.

Praise of Rutland will be given by Mrs. Warren Goodrich. Karl Acker, Swiss ski instructor at Pico Peak School, will play a Swiss skiing song on his own accordion. William Rathbone, honor student at Rutland High School, who is completing a series of murals for the school, is to sing, playing his own guitar accompaniment. Earl Hayles is to exhibit his electrically operated reed organ. The story of the organization and growth of the Vermont Symphony Orchestra will be told by Paul Pelton, associate conductor. A military march will be played by the Rutland City Band, which has been billed as America's oldest municipal band. Another musical number will be a solo by William C. Shouldice, Jr., baritone.

The scroll to be presented to Mayor Carpenter is signed by Rutland retail merchants who are sponsoring the event. These merchants will see the broadcast on the stage of the Rutland High School Auditorium.

EVERYBODY SING!
RUTLAND "Theme Song"

TUNE: "I Want to Be Happy"

Please pardon our boast-ing
Tonight we're all toast-ing
Rutland--the Green Mountain Town
Here is a great cit-y
Pro-gress-ive and pret-ty
Rutland--the great quarry town!
You know that we love you
Glad we are part of you--
Keep SPREADING NEW ENG-LAND'S FAME!

The song was written on a card as, A Souvenir of "Rutland Night" on the "SPREADING NEW ENGLAND'S FAME" radio program--Rutland High School Auditorium, Sunday, February 18, 1940, 6:00 PM--Over the Yankee Network and Originating from Station WSYB." Also noted on the card was "Sponsored by the merchants who display and sell DOUBLEMINT Chewing Gum."

Promoting Rutland seems to be an ongoing affair!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jan 8, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Weekly Rutland Herald, January 1, 1903

Bogus \$5 Piece

Gold-Washed Nickels Have Put in an Appearance in Rutland

A number of Rutland merchants have been among the victims of a widespread swindle which has been engaging the attention of the authorities at Washington. A gang of swindlers appears to have been passing five-cent pieces, gold-washed, as gold coins of the value of \$5.

Some of these bogus pieces have appeared in Rutland and have been passed on innocent parties, who, in turn, have endeavored to obtain what they considered their full face value, innocently, it may be assumed.

A business man on Merchants Row had one of these gold-washed nickels passed upon him, but he discovered the charade of the coin immediately. It was handed to him by a customer in payment of a bill, and on calling attention to the fact the man was assured that it had been obtained in good faith from another local store, where some shopping had previously been done, but it was impossible to say from whom it had been received. The authorities at Washington have as yet been unable to secure any clue to the gang that has been working these five-cent pieces.

What a way to start a new year! Today we would probably say, same old tricks, but with newer types of currency!. [Or stocks!!]

Then an interesting feat which brought us "into light"

January 8, 1903

An interesting entertainment and electrical exhibition was given by Louis Favour in the Opera House, before a large audience. It was the fourth number of the Young Men's Christian Association star course of entertainments. Among other interesting experiments was the projection of a stroke of lightning across the stage, the bolt destroying a small house. Interesting demonstrations in Electro-magnetism were also shown which led up to the telegraph and the Marconi developments of the wireless telegraphy. Mr. Favour carries with him a large amount of special instruments, which enable him to thoroughly demonstrate each experiment. A miniature battleship placed several feet from the instrument was blown up by means of the wireless system.

One hundred years later, at the beginning of 2003, we are still experimenting with electrical-magnetism and what wondrous [or dangerous] possibilities it holds.

Jan 15, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Thursday, January 14, 1897

The Beard in History

The practice of pogonotomy, the barbers say, is every year becoming more and more widespread. Pogonotomy is what the Greeks used to call the gentle art of self-shaving. Some people shave themselves because they wish to save time, others to save money. But the fashion of going smooth shaven is steadily increasing, and it is quite probable that within another five years beards and mustaches will be still less in vogue than they are today.

The decadence of the beard among civilized races, and the reason for its disappearance are interesting things to trace. Long ago a luxuriant beard was thought to betoken a high degree of holiness or wisdom. But, it would seem that in this very idolatry of the beard lay the cause of its downfall, for the possessor of a handsome beard was prone to vanity, and was likely to spend so much time in decorating it that he ran the risk of neglecting more important matters.

The French swells [egoists] of less than 200 years ago used to crimp their beards, twine them with threads of gold and hang them with pearls. Phillip of Valois, who was a leader of fashion of his day, used to tie golden acorns in his beard.

In the army the first reason for abolishing the beard was that of cleanliness. Up to the time of Alexander the Great, the Greeks were a bearded people, but that ruler made every one of his Grecian soldiers shave. The Romans, too, made shaving obligatory in the army, and there were few beards or none among the civilians. The beard was then considered to be the characteristic feature of the barbarian. In France in 1553, all the lawyers were forced to go clean shaven, and eight years later the clerks lost their beards by law.

Now the barber's trade has grown, and they themselves acknowledge that their ranks are swelling faster than those of their customers. In times of financial prosperity the barbers' pockets bulge with coin, but when business is depressed, they say, their customers by the score shave themselves.

No one would ever think of making the modern barber a hero of romance, like the barbers who flit through the pages of the "Arabian Nights. It would be hard to fancy that the ancestor of the man who shaves you today and tries to force on strangers all sorts of tonics for the hair and other costly and impossible things, was perhaps he who inspired the shears that subdued Samson.

The 1896 City Directory, lists the following barbers/hairdressers in the area: Samuel Alexander, whose ad lists, "--fashionable--Shaving and hair dressing rooms--Ladies Hair work of all kinds--in Depot"; Peter Allard, Hairdresser, 1 Merchants Row; Moses Farmer, hairdresser, 18 Evelyn Street; Joseph E. Gibson, Jr., Barber, 46 Marble, West Rutland; John J. Gomez, 56 Center Street, "Fashionable Haircutting and Shaving Parlors,-- You can prevent Baldness by using--PAUL WESTPHAL'S AUXILIATOR-- Which we always keep on Hand. Here is a testimonial from one of many prominent business men who have used it: Rutland, Vt.,

April 5, '95--I have used Westphal's Auxiliator with benefit myself, and have seen some cases where it has increased the growth of hair. Chas. A. Gale, M.D."[interesting ad!]; A.F. Kanfield's ad, "Mlle. Kanfield, successor to G.T. Loop, 32 Wales St., Ladies and Children's hair and manicuring parlors"; Sam'l Leonard, Barber, 32 Marble, West Rutland; Loftus & Logan [A.J. Loftus and Fred W. Logan] hairdressers, 5 Center Street; Frank M. Mellow, Fashionable hairdressing parlor and ladies' and children's hair cut and banged in the latest style, 36 Center Street; Daniel A. Murphy, fashionable shaving and hairdressing rooms, Berwick House, 49 Center Street; Walker and Launiere [George Launiere and J.F. Walker] hair dressing rooms, 33 Center Street; Mrs. D. B. Scott, hair dressing parlor, 44 1/2 Center Street; H[arry] P. Smith, hairdressing and bathrooms, Bardwell House"FOR ARTISTIC WORK GO TO THE BARDWELL HOUSE BARBER SHOP--Special attention given to hair cutting--THE ONLY FIRST CLASS BATH ROOM IN THE CITY." [another interesting ad!]

Today barbers and hairdressers are still kept busy, in spite of all the modern conveniences that can be used in the home. Shaving may be out, but trimming and styling certainly still keep many barber/hairdresser shops busy.

Daniel A. Murphy's "Fashionable shaving and hairdressing rooms"
At the Berwick House in 1897

Tidbits from Then and Now

Jan 22, 2003

Rutland Herald January 16, 1951

The barbershop is more than a place to get a haircut. At current prices, it has to be. It can be a fountain of knowledge and opinion ranging from Grand Opera to whatever happened to the Cards last year.

A customer asked, "Who d'ya like in the Parsiun Derby?" [A ski race held at Davos, Switzerland where Rutland's 18-year old Andrea Mead was the best bet that the United States ever entered in that classic]. Much discussion ensued concerning the possibility of this young girl winning against heavy odds of the local Swiss competition. They concluded that if she kept progressing as she had been, she had a good chance.

Within less than a week after starting to ski this year, Andy grabbed a tie for sixth place in the Women's International Downhill championships. One day later she placed second in the slalom. The next day she won the giant slalom by more than a four-second margin over her closest rival.

The odds were heavily weighted in favor of a Swiss girl. In all but one of the last twenty-five runnings of the derby a Swiss girl had won.

Local interest, while considerably tied up in Andrea's progress abroad, began to focus on Pico's slopes, which were visited by thousands over the weekend. The snow was spotty, but the weather was fine and people were enjoying it, both young and old, not rushing desperately up and down hill as though it were their first and last opportunity to ski. Skiing seemed to be growing in popularity.

On January 22, 1951, alarming reports came from Switzerland regarding enormous avalanches for several days in the area of the derby. In a telephone call to her mother, Andrea reported that the four members of the American Ski Team were unharmed. She had won two races in the Sunday competition for the Honnes Schneider Cup and with weather permitting the American team would be going to Italy for further competition.

Now, in January of 2003, the snow is piling up, the ski areas are in fine condition and it looks like it will be staying for a while. Skiers couldn't be happier!

Andrea Mead, Olympic Champion, skis down her home slope, Pico.

Jan 29, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, January 25, 1951

Recreation Department Has Ski Tow Ready to Install On Country Club's Slopes

A 525-foot portable ski tow ordered by the city recreation department for installation at the Rutland Country Club was received yesterday and is being set up on the 14th hole of the golf course, Recreation Director James F. Herdic, Jr., said.

Shipped by a Milwaukee manufacturer, the rope tow is run by a 10-horsepower, gear-operated gasoline engine [I was told that a Volkswagen motor was used for the engine], and can carry from 8 to 10 adults or from 12 to 14 children at a time. Part of the installation was set up at the golf course yesterday, under the supervision of Karl Acker, head of the Pico Peak Ski School. The tow will be in operation as soon as there is enough snow for skiing, according to Herdic.

There was no snow at all on the site yesterday, but the terrain where the tow is located offers excellent skiing possibilities for those weekends when nature fulfills its part of the bargain. At least three separate "trails" lead down from the top of the tow, all much longer than the tow line itself, and all bringing the skier back to the general vicinity of the base of the tow.

All children, ranging up through high school age, will be allowed to ride the tow free. Adults will have to pay, but the rates will probably be no higher than 50 cents for an entire day. It is estimated that money collected from adults would easily pay for the daily fuel costs of the installation and eventually pay for the \$544 cost of the tow itself. The tow is particularly designed to give the kids an opportunity to ski which the big resorts, located well out of walking distance from town, do not offer. There will be supervision at all times at the tow, which is equipped with a special safety device to shut off the motor whenever somebody's skis get tangled up in a snowdrift. The tow can be quickly dismantled and stored during the summer months, and re-installed just as quickly each winter.

The following information about the ski tow is taken from Rutland City Reports.

In the 1952 the ski tow enjoyed a highly successful season. Lessons were given to the children by the Pico Ski Club. There was a total of 1800 visits to the ski tow during the 25 days of skiing.

In 1953 the skiing season was short as the snow left the Country Club on January 17th never to return. There had been 24 days of skiing with 1500 visits to the tow.

In 1954, because of the lack of snow, there were only seven days of skiing with 663 visits. A Junior Ski Program grew during that year with over 125 children receiving instruction from volunteers, Anne & Joe Jones, Mrs. Stetson Fletcher, Walter Stred, Larry Rollins and George Grant.

In 1955, the Junior Ski Program was an amazing success under the direction of Mr. Gregg, who gave a course to instructors with the correct teaching methods. A ski sale enabled children to

purchase used ski equipment at very reasonable prices. Over 200 children were given instruction at the Rutland Country Club and Pico Peak.

In 1956 and 1957, special junior ski races were held, for those taking part in the Junior Ski Program, as part of the Rutland Winter Carnival. Lessons were given by members of the Pico Ski Club. By 1958 the ski tow was in operation only on weekends. From 1959 through 1963, no mention is made about the ski tow in the City Reports.

In 1964, the ski tow was again in operation. Ski lessons were conducted on Saturday mornings and on Thursday afternoons the tow ran for the Women's Ski program. Again in 1965 the tow was very successful and used by hundreds of adults and youngsters.

In 1966, despite attempts by vandals to cut the rope, the program was a success. Housewives' ski lessons were offered and approximately 55 ladies took part. In 1968 the tow began operating on other weekdays for practice sessions. John Biczko was the instructor.

By 1972 it was reported that the ski tow was not in operation for the past year. The motor, which was purchased through the high school, was not made ready by the school in time for skiing.[Could this be the time that the Volkswagen motor came about?]

In 1974, a great deal of vandalism began to take place around the city. Included in the report was that one of the most costly destructions was the cutting of the \$400 Ski Tow Rope, which could not be spliced. So, apparently came an end to the ski tow at the Country Club. In spite of the report of vandalism, it is said that the ski tow was discontinued for insurance reasons.

How many times has the enjoyment of many been done in by a few? Remember the nice swimming spot the city had at Rocky Pond--why did it end? Vandalism!

Feb. 5, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Excerpts from *The Vermonter*, the State Magazine, dated 1919

From 1790 to 1910, the population of the United States increased 22 fold,--that of Vermont four fold. In 1850, for every 1,000 persons above the age of five years, there were 134 below that age. In 1900 the number was 106. At the other extreme, in 1850 for every 1,000 persons under 50 years of age there were 164 persons above that age, but in 1900 this number had advanced to 272. The population formed by elderly persons thus advanced from 14.1% in 1850 to more than one-fifth the total population of the State in 1900. It is all too evident that Vermont is nowhere near maintaining the national proportion of young children and instead shows a very decided excess of elderly persons. Beyond a doubt more persons born in Vermont have gone into other states than is true of any other state in the Union. The federal census analysis of population by states of birth indicates a larger proportion of the natives of Vermont reside in other states than that reported by any other state. In other states, transfer of population is within the state, from town to town, from city to city, from town to city, etc.. Not so Vermont.

For every 1,000 persons who departed from Vermont in 1850, 335 entered it to reside. In 1900, for every 1,000 natives who departed, 300 natives of other states took up their residence in the state. From 1850-1900, the entire increase in population of the state was contributed by the foreign element, whose offspring, "native born of foreign parents," increased more than 10,000 for nearly 25 percent of the foreign born element.

In a community thus steadily losing its vital life-giving force there creeps an impenetrable cloud of discouragement and utter hopelessness and is it any wonder that the youngsters find their home towns "dead" and just as soon as possible they get away from the deadening influences.

The creation by the legislature of a salaried state position of "Secretary of Community Development" would give a solid foundation to the work of the development of a Vermont Community Association. Community development in Vermont is of such vital importance that it should be treated as a business proposition and its affairs directed by a state official.

On the local level, the Community House could be the social and industrial center of the surrounding district. Meetings of the various societies or organizations could be held and entertainments of a dramatic nature put on by local talent and by players from other Community Houses and from State headquarters. The Community House would be the center to which will come the women of the State to instruct in all subjects bearing upon the home and its problems. The farmers can come for meetings with the county agricultural agent, or with the State forester. Each Community House besides having its own dramatic society should have its orchestra, quartette or chorus and during the year these organizations might give entertainments in the houses within the county or possibly in the adjoining counties.

Stowe has an ideal community house as any who have seen it will bear witness. Likewise, Rutland and soon East Burke. Woodstock and Barre have committees now at work on plans for Community Houses. Vermont, like so many other states, is afflicted with a great number of organizations, which are duplicating each other's work. Here in lies economic waste which can

be avoided. In addition to the almost countless benefits that would come to the resident Vermonters, such community centers should be the means of attracting desirable home seekers within the borders of the State. There should be a Community House in every center of population in Vermont. Here would come all the people for work and play, to learn and to teach, and to help one another make the life of our hill country more interesting and more worthwhile to themselves and their neighbors.

Dr. John Mead's gift of a Community house to Rutland was made after due reflection. He had noted with concern that the search for amusement often took young people into seemingly questionable surroundings and he determined to furnish a place for gatherings of all sorts, irrespective of creed or race, under suitable supervision, and to make the gift absolutely without strings. Rutland has a very large floating or transient population. It is by far the largest railroad center in the state. More marble is produced in the vicinity, in dollars and cents, than in all the rest of the United States, while an adjoining town possesses the second largest slate deposit in the western hemisphere. The amount of business transacted in the city exceeds perhaps that of any other three places in the state. [Remember this is 1919.]

Today in 2003, the city of Rutland is seeking a permanent home for what is now called "Boys and Girls Club". The purpose is the same as that proposed for the Community Center back in 1919. Plans are forming for Rutland United Neighborhoods [RUN], an organization to help solve our present-day problems of drugs and crime by building stronger and healthier neighborhoods, and discussions are taking place regarding a regional recreation center.

According to *The Vermonter* the country and the State of Vermont banded closer together after World War I [1919]. Vermont wanted to maintain the State motto of *Freedom and Unity*, and provide their youth with the opportunity to live in a safe environment.

After so many wars and upheavals in society, we still want the same things for our youth today.

Feb. 12, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 5, 1922

Dancing Is Without A Competitor as a Form of Relaxation

Nothing can compete with dancing as a relaxation. The companionship with people, the exhilaration of rhythmical movement and the music all tend to restore the bodily energy that has been exhausted in the day's work. It is especially beneficial for those who are obliged to do dull routine work during the day or who have sedentary occupations.

"As an exercise it is one of the best for the people of all ages. It is sufficiently vigorous to give full play to all the large muscular masses of the body, and yet mild enough to be indulged in by persons who have passed the age when they can safely engage in more violent exercise. Grandmother, mother and daughter can participate in this agreeable recreation with the comforting knowledge that it is quickening their circulation and thereby aiding their respiration and digestion.

"The full benefits of dancing are usually somewhat offset by the conditions under which it is done--in a hot, crowded dance hall insufficiently ventilated, and late at night when one should be refreshing oneself with sleep. Perhaps it is impossible, to remedy all of these conditions, but at least one can insist that the windows be kept open so that the air can circulate freely. Dancing is decidedly harmful if indulged in when one is in a nervous, high-strung condition.

"Vigorous dancing such as folk dancing may be classed with mountain climbing, tennis and running in its effect on the health. It keeps the body in prime condition, and, in addition, develops grace and ease of motion in a way that nothing else can." *Brooklyn "Citizen"*.

Now, a number of you are going to say "Oh sure, but, we've gone past the age of going out to dance [of course the music is NOT the same as when we enjoyed waltzes, swing, jazz etc.] . I have a solution for you, which I personally enjoy. I have a tape of Herb Alpert and his Tijuana Brass music and for a half hour in the morning [I get up early!], I "jog" to the rhythm. It really is exhilarating and my "motor" is running for the day. I do have to say that my cat also enjoys listening to the music and will wait and "meow" if she thinks I'm not going to do it. Don't say you can't do it--my mother, at 90 was up in the morning and "flexing and flapping" legs and arms and was set for the day, even if she didn't have the usual workload of family life.

The Historical Society held Summer weekly dances with recorded Big Band music for a few years. [The Society still provides recorded music for dancing upon request] It was really enjoyed by many and the purpose was to make people aware that music from the past can still be enjoyed and is part of a very important past to be preserved. The added fact of being good for your health is a bonus! Now think about "romantic" dancing and have a Happy Valentine's Day.

Feb. 19, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Article in the May 4, 1922 Rutland Herald

Motor Car Camp Sites Are Now in Big Demand

Many Cities and Towns Are Providing Places for the Tourists to Stop

The automobile is making nomads of a considerable portion of the population. The gypsy wagons and camps have their counterparts in tens of thousands of motor parties stretching from coast to coast. The extent of this tourist travel comes as a surprise to most people, especially in the East. There are today more than 2,000 stations or camps between the two coasts where motorists may be accommodated and many of them are very elaborate.

The annual spring migration is already well under way. The continuous caravans of transcontinental motorists by no means monopolize these stations. There is an important movement from the North to South and the reverse, especially in the West, and no end of traffic crossing these routes at every angle. It is thus possible to visit widely separated sections of the country at little expense.

The public camp sites have had a remarkable development recently as a result of this continual migration. They have a double purpose in attracting visitors and bringing money to the cities or towns, while at the same time they are a measure of self protection. Great armies [migrant workers and their families] travel in search of work and can travel to other parts of the country when finishing employment in another area and farmers can take their families on trips between crops.

The simpler motor camps consist merely of convenient tracts of land set aside for parking. In others, fireplaces and cooking apparatus are supplied free of charge or at a nominal fee. The more elaborate of these camps contain electric lights, gas stoves or electric stoves, lavatories, laundries, shower baths, bath tubs, cement incinerators, lockers--in short, all the comforts of home. The camps are sometimes placed near lakes or rivers and boats are at the disposal of visitors.

Small amusement parks sometimes spring up convenient to these stopping places, where the travelers may enjoy themselves. The inevitable moving picture theaters soon appear. The motor tourist may travel for thousands of miles in the West and find these stations at convenient intervals.

Today, any month of the year will find people traveling in their "motor homes". They still have camp sites but are now called RV parks. Instead of all the conveniences of home being supplied, the travelers either drive their "home" or tug it along behind their vehicle. Now you can even go and visit friends where it's WARM and park your "home" in their yard. Think about it, we may not get warm around here until June!

Feb. 26, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

How often do we older adults get the question from little children "What did you used to watch on TV?" They are in wonder that we didn't have such a thing when we were growing up. An interesting note in the May 2, 1922 *Rutland Herald* may help them to understand.

Forecasts Sending Moving Pictures by Radio Soon

Motion pictures transmitted by radio are not only possible, but probable, said L.C. Porter of Newark, president of the Society of Motion Picture Engineers in an address at the organization's convention.

"Today pictures are being transmitted by radio" Mr. Porter said, "It is but a step from the transmission of one picture to the transmission of a series of pictures, which joined together make a moving picture. It is therefore not only possible, but probable that we shall show in our educational institutions great educational pictures broadcast by radio."

But the radios we had, made us use our imaginations. They made us picture in our minds what the persons singing looked like (unless we had seen a newspaper picture of them). Ken McKenzie was the love of my life when I was five. He was a local Country singer (I was told later in life). I remember thinking I would marry him one day! We listened to 15 minute serials--remember Terry & the Pirates? My mother banned me from listening to that program after I ran behind the dining room table to avoid being hit by a hand grenade! Oh how our imaginations worked!

Another article on May 5, 1922 saw another side of the radio which we can even find today.

Radio Fills Many Wants In the Home

A worried mother was frustrated by trying to keep her 7 year old son, who was ill with measles, confined to the semi-darkness of his room, in accordance with the dictates of the family physician. Then a little radio set came to their house to live. Thereafter, the child amused himself for hours listening to the music and the fairy tales being broadcast for just such little shut-ins as himself.

Today children entertain themselves with TV and Walkman radios etc. Are they using their imaginations or the imaginations of others? Come to think of it TV could be a "brainwashing" device if parents don't keep control! Could the radio have done the same to us? I guess every generation has to cope with something different and wonder about the blessings or evils of it all.

#192

March 5, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

We have moved into March and the cold came with us! Hopefully we are preparing ourselves for spring. An article in *The Household Ledger* of 1903, "The Cultivation of Physical Beauty", can help us prepare ourselves for the warm day fashions that are coming. It also has some useful hints to follow to keep healthy.

The long hours of sleep consume about one-third of our existence. Although the demand made upon the system is naturally much less than during the waking hours, there is a wasting away of tissues consequent upon the suspension of nutriment for many hours. The body feeds upon itself, for food taken at dinner is digested at bedtime. Often one is restless and wakeful at night because the stomach is empty. Onions are an excellent and harmless soporific [sleep inducing]. Eaten raw at bedtime, sliced thin and spread upon bread and butter, with a pinch of salt added to make them more palatable, they have cured insomnia where many high-sounding and possibly harmful remedies have failed. [Onions at bedtime?!]

An effective and simple breathing exercise is as follows: Raise the arms straight and high above the head, palms together. Take a deep inspiration [breath], rising at the same time upon the toes and make half-a-dozen steps or so across the room. Expel the breath as the arms are dropped and come down upon the heels at the same moment. Repeat ten times. Breathing exercises, it is needless to say, require an unlimited supply of pure air. Impure air, or that which has been rebreathed, is too deficient in oxygen to effect the desired result.

Water is best taken when the stomach is empty. A moderate quantity is permissible at meals, but not enough to nullify the action of the gastric juices. The habit of copious drinking of pure, cold--not iced--water is an invaluable agent in the taking on of flesh [muscle].

In a correct standing position the weight of the body is sustained by the ball of the foot, and the heels touch but lightly. To walk upon the ball of the foot alone is unnatural and affected; to come awkwardly down upon the heel at every step, jars the spine and robs the carriage of elegance and grace. Those who have acquired the bad habit of walking heavily upon their heels should wear rubber heels upon their shoes to soften the jar until the fault is corrected.

There is no better tonic for tender feet than to plunge them daily into cold water. Follow this by a brisk rub with a crash [hard] towel until the feet are rosy and glowing. This will be beneficial also to feet inclined to swell. This cold-water tonic is excellent for rheumatism, chilblains and bunions. The feet should not be left in the cold water more than half a minute.

The shoulders should be perfectly flat when standing, but not drawn backward in an exaggerated curve. The chest should be raised high, and never allowed to become concave. The abdomen should be well drawn in and the body below the hips thrown well back. The "new figure" is in accord with the laws of grace and hygiene in this matter, and fashion has largely accomplished what volumes of lectures have failed to do.

And speaking of the perfect fashion, how about the "fashion of the day" or as noted above, the "new figure"! Are you working on your "spring" figure?

#193

#193 March 12, 2003

March 12, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, March 1, 1888

THE TOWN POOR

The purchase of a new Town Farm and the erection of new buildings on it provides the Overseer of the Poor's report more than usual interest in connection with the future of that important feature of town affairs.

The division of the town left Rutland without any Poor Farm. The Selectmen made an arrangement with the new town of West Rutland to take care of those paupers on the farm who belonged in what was left of Rutland, until a proper place could be provided. The cost of keeping them at West Rutland was \$892.39. This was less than what they could probably have been kept for elsewhere, but more than it would have cost on the farm.

Rutland being a central town, poor people who are chargeable to other towns are continually applying for help. Soon after the Overseer's election, he found a man and his wife who belonged in Pittsford, but upon whom had been expended during the previous year nearly \$200 by this town. The overseer of Pittsford was notified and he took them away and thus saved this town a large future expense.

After the act dividing the town was passed, a pauper family coming from Proctor to Rutland was helped to a considerable amount. The woman's husband was killed in an accident, and as she could not pay her rent, she was ordered to vacate the house and soon after she turned up in Rutland. Whether or not the new town of Proctor can be made to support her the overseer is uncertain.



With the construction at the Poor Farm completed, inmates now occupy the new building. It is two stories in height, extending east and west, and is connected with the old building by an L. The men's and women's quarters on each floor are wholly separate and distinct; and the two sexes meet only in the general dining room, through which access is had, through the two kitchens, to the old house, now occupied exclusively by the Overseer of the Poor.

The hospitals [rooms] are provided with medicine closets and clothes closets, and connect with the bath-rooms, into which doors open also from the entries. The second floor, which is reached by stairs from each lower entry, is devoted entirely to sleeping apartments, the division between the men's and women's sides being by a partition running through the building from north to south.

The woodwork throughout the building is stained in imitation of cherry, the walls are of white hard finish, and the ceilings are without ornamentation. The bedsteads are of iron, single width, two in each room; and this number may be doubled as occasion may demand, without in any way crowding or inconveniencing the inmates.

On the first floor, the diningroom is provided with strong, but comfortable painted chairs; and the same is true of the other rooms on the first floor. The location of the building is such that every apartment has excellent light, and the rooms are all cheerful and bright. The floors are painted with ochre.

The present inmates of the Poorhouse include five women, one girl, one baby and nine men. The building is larger than is presently needed, but there is no telling how soon it's utmost capacity may be tested. It is certainly a wise economy to provide a building that is likely to meet all requirements for years to come. Everything is managed not only economically, but with much skill and excellent tact. The inmates all appear to be contented; and everything runs as smoothly as clock-work. The accommodation of the new Poorhouse will prove a most valuable adjunct in the care of the worthy poor and in a proper discrimination between them and impostors.

When the division of the towns took place, I wonder how many realized just how complicated things would become. Each "new town" had to have its own facilities as well as the central town of Rutland that was left with a need to develop facilities that had been absorbed by these towns in the division.

March 19, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

October 4, 1888

A CREDIT TO RUTLAND

The finest structure of its kind in Vermont has been built on the east side of Pine Street, just north of State Street. The new schoolhouse which has been much admired by strangers who have been in town during the summer, as well as by the citizens of Rutland, for its fine architectural appearance and the perfect arrangements of the interior, has been completed.

The situation of the schoolhouse is considered one of the best in town, being in a locality which is rapidly increasing in population. It is a substantial and well constructed building, and for the primary grades of a school it is probably the finest in the state. Members of the press, teachers, superintendents and others interested in the school system were invited to inspect the building.

The first step taken toward the erection of the edifice was at a meeting of the Rutland Graded School District on April 9, 1887, when it was voted to build a new schoolhouse and a committee was appointed to select a suitable site. On April 25, the committee reported in favor of the Richardson lot on Grove Street, but they were instructed to investigate still further. At a subsequent meeting they reported in favor of building a \$12,000 schoolhouse on a West Street lot, and it was so voted. There was some dissatisfaction, however, and a special meeting was held on May 24 to reconsider the vote. It adjourned without action. Another special meeting held on June 7, rescinded the vote, and unanimously voted to build a schoolhouse on the Pine Street site.

Mr. F. W. Stickney of Lowell, Mass., was selected as the architect; and soon afterward the contract for the foundation was awarded to W.W. Young of Rutland. The stonework was begun in September and finished during October. Work was then stopped on account of the approach of winter. The contract for building the schoolhouse proper was awarded to George E. Russell of Rutland. He sub-let the contract for the brick work to O.F. Cummings of Rutland, who began the work on April 15; and the structure was entirely completed previous to the opening of the fall term of school on the 11th of September, 1888.

The foundation is a solid marble wall 10 feet deep, making a high basement. The structure is two stories and a half high and has what is called a square-pitched roof, covered with slate. The cap-stones of the windows are of light-blue marble; and extending around the building under the windows, as well as under the cornice of the roof, is a belting course of blue marble, which presents a handsome contrast with the brick walls. Over the entrance to the building are the figures "1888".

There are four rooms in the building, two on each floor and each is 28 by 30 feet. The floors throughout the building are of maple, and the woodwork and doors of the rooms are of pine, finished in imitation of cherry. The girls' and boys' apartments [restrooms] are separated by a brick wall and are reached by different stairways; and the furnishings are of the latest improved designs.

There are 54 desks in each room, made by the Vermont School Seat Company, and are the invention of Mr. Albert Landon of Rutland. The seat part turns in under the back, and they are graded in height according to the ages of the scholars. The teachers' desks and tables are of cherry and were made to order by L.G. Kingsley. An organ has been ordered for each room, and will be finished in cherry to correspond with the other furniture.

The roof of the building is crowned with a cupola, in which is hung a bronze bell weighing 153 pounds and made by the Meneely Bell Co. of Troy. It is claimed by Smead & Northcott of Elmira, NY [manufacturer of the heating system] that the building can be warmed throughout in the coldest weather to a temperature of 70 degrees inside of three hours.

With all its conveniences and modern improvements, the building undoubtedly the finest in the state, and is a model of its kind and ranks with the best in New England. The entire cost of the structure, including the land, was about \$15,000.

It is interesting to look around Rutland and see some of the "old" school houses that are still standing and are still being put to good use.

March 26
2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

It's really amazing how topics for "Tidbits From Then and Now" can appear out of nowhere. That's not to say that newspapers, directories and reports aren't the primary source for the topics. The Historical Society has been kept very busy lately researching topics that have been called to their attention by telephone inquiries, E-mail inquiries and even letters. These are not genealogical research requests. We have a genealogical researcher (VOLUNTEER). These subjects are much more. I give you an example:

Mayor Cassarino received a letter from France which he forwarded to the Society. During WWII on August 8, 1944, the crew of a B17 was shot down over France and all but one member of the crew perished. The Mayor of Perigny France would like to construct a monument in memory of the crew.

The letter requested information about any living members of the family of Frank O. Thomas of Rutland who died in the crash. A telephone call to a former WWII Air Force member jogged the memory of his wife, who had known Frank's sister and the name of her son. A call to Frank's nephew gave me the number of Frank's sister in Florida. From there all the details of the dates etc. became known.

Rutland Herald June 3, 1944

Sgt. Thomas of Rutland Gives His Pants to Help Save Bomber

Sgt. Frank Thomas gave his pants for his country and his sacrifice helped to bring the crippled Flying Fortress "Yehudi" back from Leipzig, sputtering on one engine and a half.

Nazi fighters had knocked out two of the fort's engines and hit the supercharger of the third reducing its effectiveness. The pilot ordered the crew to throw out everything that "can't shoot." Out went a thousand pounds of equipment and Thomas' old trousers, shirt and underwear. He had changed from station togs to flying gear after boarding the plane. "My pants and my all I give for my country," laughed Radioman Thomas, as his shorts fluttered in the bomber's slipstream.

Frank had enlisted in the service on January 15, 1943. He went overseas on April 1, 1944 and Frank's sister stated that on August 8, 1944, Frank was reported missing in action over France.

Rutland Herald August 14, 1945

T/Sgt. Frank O. Thomas, radioman and gunner on a B-17, who has been reported as missing in action over France since August 8, 1944, is now presumed dead, according to a War department letter received yesterday by the young serviceman's parents. Sgt. Thomas was a member of a crew of a Flying Fortress which participated in a tactical bombing mission to St. Sylvain, France, and crashed near Caen, France, after having been damaged by enemy anti-aircraft artillery fire. He had been awarded the Air medal with three Oak Leaf clusters.

According to his sister, Frank's body was not returned home until 1948. He is buried in a family plot in Burlington.

This is just one example of the "searches" in which the Rutland Historical Society gets involved. Now we will be able to pass this information on to the person in France. Frank's sister feels that the idea of a memorial is a wonderful. We hope that when it is completed, she will be able to attend the unveiling.

Research gives such a wonderful feeling when you can find the information requested. Just think, the local Society is actually involved in an international project.

April 2, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, August 28, 1906

Fresh Air Children Returned

The party of fresh-air children who have been in this city since the 14th, together with about 20 who remained here from the party brought July 11, returned to New York yesterday morning in charge of Mrs. Rollin Pitts of this city.

The first party of children, which arrived here July 11, numbered 60. Forty of them returned home July 24. Those who were entertaining the other 20, wishing to keep them a while longer, were allowed to do so.

The second party of children arrived August 14, and numbered 28, 20 of them being taken to Mendon, where they were entertained by Mrs. Jeremiah Thornton, the other eight remaining in this city.

The children of both parties enjoyed themselves as much as children could, and they not only gained in weight but most of them possessed ruddy hues in their faces when they left for New York.

I thought this was interesting since it appeared next to a brief tidbit that I intended to write for this week's article. What made it a coincidence [I call it "meant to be"] is that in today's paper of March 25, 2003, there is a short article stating "Fresh Air Needs Hosts". Since 1877, the Fresh Air Fund has provided thousands of city children with the opportunity to enjoy the simple pleasures of a two-week visit. [Just felt I was supposed to mention the coincidence!]

The following article appearing in the same August 1906 newspaper is just to let you know that times haven't changed very much.

Pistol Duel

Two Men Empty Revolvers at Each Other Without Shedding Blood

The bloodless French duel has long been one of the chief assets of the humorous press, ranking with the cantankerous mother-in-law and the boarding house steak. However, yesterday two local men gave an exhibition of bloodless gun play rivaling any contest every participated in by a Parisian boulevardier.

The incident occurred yesterday on West Street about 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Two men at the Forest Street railroad crossing and at a distance of about 50 feet apart emptied the contents of their revolvers at each other without a drop of blood being shed. When the first shot was fired people came running from every direction to see the fun.

In less time than it takes to tell, a large and appreciative audience had gathered. At each exchange of shots a murmur of expectant joy went through the crowd, but after smoke of each discharge cleared away and the belligerents were still seen to be "heart whole and bullet free" their pleasant expectation was turned to sad disappointment. And, when after a final exchange of leaden courtesies the combatants turned and fled in opposite directions, there were wild cries of "kill de umpire!" "give us rain checks!" etc., and it would probably have fared ill with either of the duelers had they remained to brave the vengeance of the much disappointed spectators.

Almost like the stuff the kids watch and cheer on when they watch TV today!

April 9,
2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

The following excerpts were taken from newspaper clippings contained in scrap books being processed by the Rutland Historical Society recently.

The Rutland News, March 22, 1919

Drawing and Sewing Departments of Pubic Schools Exhibit for Visiting Teachers

The annual convention of the Rutland County Teachers Association had the opportunity to get new ideas through lectures and conferences in which pupils of the Rutland public schools were used as models in giving demonstrations of lessons. The drawing and domestic science departments of the local schools gave a very credible exhibition of the work of the pupils with the pencil and the needle. There were some real works of art among the sketches and the handiwork indicated that some of the girls of 12 and 13 years in the Rutland schools can use a needle in a way which would shame some of their elders. The teachers were entertained at the session with a violin solo by Payson Webber.

There was a conference for high school teachers under the leadership of Principal Walker of West Rutland. Principal Maude Patrick of Burlington spoke on "Teaching Pupils How to Study" and Principal Edward S. Abbott of Rutland gave a talk on secondary schools.

Girls Inventory Their Wardrobes

Ninth Grade Pupils Get Lesson As to What Their Parents Sacrifice for Them

To bring home in a most pointed manner just how much parents are doing for their children, Miss Mabel Woods, teacher of domestic art in the public schools, had one of the ninth grade classes make an inventory of their wardrobes.

Miss Woods states that many girls have absolutely no idea of the value of money and that they are not thoughtful or considerate of the amount of money which their parents expend on their living. For this reason she sent the girls home to have them make a list of dresses, coats, shoes, hats, sweaters, rubbers, underwear, ribbons and furbelows [ruffles or unnecessary flounces to fancy up their clothing]. Some of them returned, perfectly amazed at what their supposedly simple clothes cost, frequently over \$100.

Miss Woods also pointed out the high cost of other necessities and showed the young people what a sacrifice parents often make on small salaries to buy even the plain things for their children.

Except for the cost [which can be evaluated in today's economy], how familiar this must sound to many of the parents today?

April 16, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

One hundred years ago two of Rutland's businessmen, Dr. John A. Mead and E.C. Tuttle, went on a 10 week trip to Europe, Asia and Africa. The Rutland Historical Society has a complete documentation of the trip including three albums of pictures and memorabilia, very carefully captioned and showing the different countries traveled. The following item noting the return of Dr. John A. Mead to Rutland appeared in the Rutland Weekly Herald on April 16, 1903.

Dr. Mead Returns

Met at the Depot by 400 of the Scale Works' Employees

About 400 of the employees of the Howe scale works, headed by the City band, turned out to welcome Dr. John A. Mead, who arrived in this city on the 7:20 o'clock train last evening, after a 10 week trip to Europe, Asia and Africa. They were at the station when the train arrived.

Several officials of the scale works met Dr. Mead as he alighted from the train and took him through the waiting room to the barouche ["elegant" carriage] which was in waiting, while the band played "When Johnny Comes Marching Home." The procession, consisting of the band, the 400 scale workers in line and the brouche, passed up Center Street, down Wales and up Washington Street to the house. On Washington Street the line separated and the carriage, containing Dr. and Mrs. Mead and Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Hinsman, drove up to the Mead home, while the band played "Home, Sweet Home."

As Dr. Mead reached the piazza he was welcomed by A.B. Grant, a blacksmith employed at the scale works, in behalf of the employees. In response Dr. Mead expressed his hearty appreciation of the honor done him by his employees and declared it was a complete surprise to him. He gave a brief outline of his trip from the time he left this city on February 5. He described the various countries which he visited and he dwelt at length on the pleasure it gave him to visit Palestine and the Holy Land. In comparing this with other countries he said: "In all the countries which I have visited I have found nothing to compare with our United States, and as I passed from place to place and dwelt upon the thought that I belonged to this grand country my head became swelled to such an extent that I began to think I would have to use a shoe horn to put my hat on. I feel that the United States is the best country on God's footstool, and of all the 45 [remember this was 100 years ago] states there is none so good as Vermont, and of all the 246 towns in the state there is none so good to me as Rutland."

E.C. Tuttle who accompanied Dr. Mead remained in New York for a week. The collection at the Rutland Historical society shows many interesting pictures, including one of E.C. Tuttle in full costume of an Arab. [Looks like they had fun on the trip!] How times have changed in 100 years!

April 23, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, August 16, 1894

An Ice Cave

One of the most unique spots in Vermont and, strange as it may seem, one of the most not frequented by visitors, is the ice cave in the Pittsford Gorge. This gorge lies between two sharp peaks situated about three miles southeast of Pittsford Mills and about half a mile from the road leading from that place to East Pittsford.

It is said that during the warm summer months the Indians who inhabited this region before the conquest of the white men used to store their fresh venison in the ice-bound subterranean channels of the vault. Tales are related of pottery and arrow heads being found there by the early explorers in this region.

To learn the exact extent of this cave and to determine the falsity or truth of the various rumors connected with it, a party of three left Rutland with ropes, lanterns and general paraphernalia for descending into the cave, should there prove to be one. Climbing over the rocks and decayed trees, or crawling under the boulders, they made their way to the upper end of the gorge. Here on either side the cliffs rise in sheer precipices over 200 feet and are backed at the further end by a semi-circular wall that slopes by a series of steps to the conjunction of the peaks beyond. They discovered the entrance to the cave hidden in a recess in the cliff at the foot of the north precipice. It did not seem strange that it had been overlooked by other searchers. Crawling on hands and knees into the mouth and turning sharply to the right they found a circular hole about six feet in diameter descending into the blackness below. Across the hole was a log about six inches in diameter, while from the further edge projected the top of a primitive ladder placed there by an exploring party years before.

Finding this too fragile to trust, they descended by ropes, taking the lantern with them. At the depth of 35 feet they came to the first landing. The air was colder and the thermometer registered 50 degrees. After fastening their ropes and putting on overcoats they made their way down the passageway. After about 30 feet the floor became moist and slimy and the air gradually colder. Suddenly they came to the end of the channel and saw that they stood on the edge of a precipice. The roof was higher and branched out on either side, making a passageway 15 feet wide. Stationing a post there, they went down by the rope for 20 feet until they stood on the bottom and found themselves in the ice cave.

The name "ice cave" was no misnomer for the floor was composed of a solid bed of ice 15 feet thick and as hard and solid as that found in a mill pond in February. Chunks and slabs were also strewn about, measuring between a foot and two feet in thickness. The vault was 76 feet in length. From the main chamber branched numerous passages leading in every direction. In most of these the aperture was too small to admit exploring them.

The air in the main vault was exceedingly cold, and the temperature at the bottom near the ice was 32 degrees above zero. After remaining there until thoroughly chilled, they made their way

with some difficulty into the outer air. A careful examination of the gorge failed to bring to light any other cave containing ice. So from what they had heard and seen, they were confident that they had been in the ice cave of Pittsford.

That was about 110 years ago. Has anyone heard about that cave? Does it still exist? Is it in the same condition that it was so long ago? Do we have spelunkers in the area today that have been there?

April 30, 2003

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald October 5, 1942

Old Clock In Court House Goes To War

Probably no one in the city worked harder to get in the scrap than Charles Hill, 71-year old janitor of the County court house, who took apart the old court house clock and lowered it in pieces by rope from the belfry. The seventy-odd year old handwinding clock, unused since the new electric timepiece was installed about 18 years ago, was estimated to have yielded 300 pounds of brass, cast iron and steel.

Hill passed the dismantled clock out the window of the belfry on to the roof and lowered the pendulum, which weighed 60 pounds, and buckets of wheels, cables, and gears first to the attic and then to the ground floor.

The old clock caused some trouble around 1880, it was recalled by George N. Harman, present [1942] county clerk at the court house. At that time, he said, the clock belfry was in the center of the building [see original belfry picture]. When the clock struck, the vibration dislodged a section of plaster moulding weighing several hundred pounds from the court room ceiling which fell directly across the judge's desk. The court was not in session [thank goodness!]. To remedy this a wooden ceiling was installed and the belfry was moved to its present position at the front of the building. [see later location picture]

original belfry

later location

Remember the scrap metal collections we used to have? It was kind of fun to see what other kids would bring to school to put in the collection. We all had our part in winning WWII by bringing scrap metal for a good cause, from frying pans to large iron pipes. Even iron dogs were accepted---So **that's** what happened to the dogs from the front of the Crestwood!!

Tidbits from Then and Now

The Twilight Homemakers' Club Celebrates 50 Years

The Rutland City Night Home Demonstration Club held an organizational meeting at the home of Mrs. Gloria Frankiewicz at 8:30 PM on February 4, 1953. There were twelve members attending with Mrs. Bethia Munger, County Extension Agent, presiding.

The purpose of the organization was to provide homemakers the opportunity to study homemaking and community problems. Trained leadership would provide programs to increase the skills of the members, add to their information and develop their ability to apply the contributions of science and art to their chosen profession of "Homemaking". In this way they could more effectively contribute to the well-being of their communities. The educational programs were carried out under the direction of the Cooperative Extension Service of the State of Vermont.

Beth Munger became a County agent for the Vermont Extension Service in the Fall of 1952. At that time there were only two active "Homemakers" clubs in Rutland County. During Beth's tenure, the number of clubs grew to over 30 with over 300 statewide. Homemaker's clubs were affiliated with the County, State and National organization.

On March 12, 1953, at their first regular meeting, this new club unanimously voted on the title "Twilight Home Demonstration Club" as suggested by Mrs. Catherine Onion. Dues were ten cents per meeting and there would be ten consecutive meetings to be held each year, excepting the months of July and August. Members could not miss more than three (excused) meetings or miss paying dues for six months or they would be dismissed.

Throughout the years this club provided services to many local non-profit organizations as well as establishing programs that were eventually taken over by state or government agencies. [i.e., school lunch programs]. The programs consisted of instruction in ways to nurture families through activities, practical application of homemaking as well as introducing crafts to make for the home [i.e., quilting, rug making, cooking, preserving foods etc.]. Changing lifestyles were dealt with through programs provided by the extension service. These dealt with the family structure (both parents working) and public communication and services. There was a slight change in the club name over the years. At one point it was the Twilight Extension Homemakers' Club and it eventually became The Twilight Homemakers' Club when the University of Vermont Extension Service no longer sponsored the clubs, but remained available if needed for programs.

In 1977, after 25 years as Rutland County Agent, Beth Munger moved from that position to Middlebury and although she was replaced by very worthy agents, she was never replaced in the hearts of the Twilight Club members.

As with many organizations affected by the changes in lifestyle, few of the "Homemakers" clubs remain today. The Twilight Homemakers which grew off and on to 22 members, has continued

to meet. They continue to provide programs through their own initiative and to support local community projects.

On May 29, 2003, Seventeen of the twenty-two members of the Twilight Homemakers' Club enjoyed their 50th anniversary at a luncheon celebrated at the Middlebury Inn. Many enjoyable memories were shared with the two honored guests, Beth Munger and Claire McLaughlin, who was the Club's first Secretary/Treasurer.

As a member of this wonderful group, my most vivid memory is of my friend who had eleven children and did not have time to join the club. She pleaded with me not to ever quit the club, as I passed on to her many of the useful and thrifty tips about homemaking.

Today's young families have all kinds of publications, TV educational programs and any number of community programs to turn to for advice and help. They are also in a whirlwind of activities that keep families busy both at work and play. That's probably why so many feel that National Granges and Homemakers' Clubs have served their purpose.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald August 30, 1875

The ***** Troupe in their Specialities

There was a lively time among the *****s on Friday. They had a sort of social occasion at the house that day. The next morning the entire ***** family left their cards with the police judge. The levee, or whatever it was, being an extra occasion in the history of the ***** family, it was celebrated with great eclat [notoriety]. We suppose that "all the delicacies of the season" were there in profusion. Anyhow that peculiar delicacy dear to the Irish breast - and palate - known as forty-rod whiskey, was there in abundance. The *****s rightly decided that the fete would be exceedingly tame unless enlivened by something to tickle the tongue and raise the drooping spirits to the Donnybrook fair pitch of enthusiasm.

When the Gouger Hill company learned that the *****s were holding this grand house-warming without inviting them, they became exceedingly wroth [very angry] and the slogan sounded loud and long from the battlements of the Hill. When the army was sufficiently recruited it formed in grand array, and with figurative banners floating in the air and imaginary swords in their hands they moved toward the setting sun. The ***** mansion occupies a commanding position just west of the railroad track and south of the depot. When the Gouger Hill company marched in upon this peaceful and highly enjoyable entertainment, there was trouble. It was a house-warming in real earnest. It soon got hot, and then there was fun- more fun than a circus, and the participants enjoyed it hugely. It was a regular "jamboree" in several beautiful tableaux [acts], the last of which represented the cruel officer of the law leaving the mansion with the entire ***** family under his paternal care. This ended the levee. The fun became so lively and was so rapidly on the increase that there was great danger of the entire ***** family being lost to the world. When it got to this point it was thought prudent to invite the State of Vermont to participate, and then came the closing tableau to slow music.

Saturday morning an inventory of the ***** family was taken by the court and it was ascertained that Mary, alias "Billy", Dan and Margaret were present. The arena was then cleared, the actors waltzed from behind the curtain and the circus began. "Billy" took the part of the natty barmaid and the disturber of the peace. She is a good actor and gave both characters to perfection. Dan assumed the role of the drunk and disorderly bruiser and was quite a success. Margaret appeared in the same character as Dan and was almost as fortunate in her selection. Strange to say their doings were not appreciated by the Judge and he required each actor to deposit \$5 with the county besides enough to pay the costs of the company while listening to the entertainment. The *****'s entertainment was a success, theatrically considered, but the financial failure will probably bankrupt the troupe and their talents will be lost to the world and Gouger Hill. Sad fate.

Now, don't tell me that reporting in the old days lacked a sense of humor! By the way, you have to know that it was an Irish family and the participants from Gouger Hill [South Main Street hill] were also Irish. Should you want to know the family name, you will have to read the article in the 1875 newspaper. [Today's privacy act]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Viewers of this year's Loyalty Day parade observed that the Rutland Historical Society "Digs History". Recently a wooden box with the initials W.C.L. appeared on Ebay and a viewer queried the Society as to whom it may have belonged. We think Walter C. Landon. The following article found in an old scrapbook seemed particularly timely although it is from 1888.

Twenty years of honorable and successful business experience is the record of Mr. Walter C. Landon at his well-known stand at the corner of Evelyn and Freight Streets [short street that ran across the tracks to Union Street]. Beginning in 1868 with the general hardware business, the scope of his stock has been increased and enlarged until today it includes all kinds of hardware and agricultural implements, paints, oils, varnishes, stains, cement, lime, salt, building materials of all kinds, sleighs, robes, carriages, blankets and an endless variety of other articles such as are usually found in a store of this description. Mr. Landon, throughout his business career, has enjoyed to a rare degree the confidence of the public, and his name is known from one end of Rutland county to the other as the synonym for fair and honest treatment--even in a horse trade. His place of business is off the main street, but it is nevertheless found with ease by all who desire to trade there, and once found, a customer is sure to be so well satisfied that he continues to call until the location becomes a familiar as that of any other place in town. The extensive variety of the stock kept by Mr. Landon makes it undesirable to dwell at length upon any particular feature, but let it suffice to say that in any of the articles enumerated above, this establishment stands on a par or is superior to any other store of its kind in town. In the sleighs, blankets and robes especially can bargains be offered just now, and it will pay any perspective purchaser to call there before closing a bargain.

To further complete the historical "dig", the Society received a call from the archivist from Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire asking if we were interested in a large photo of--guess who?--- Mr. W. C. Landon. Now you know what we mean by digging history---you never know what will appear and make your day.

As I have said many time before, "It was meant to be"!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Tidbit from 1888 newspaper clipping

C.W. Nichols, Artistic Photographer, No 21 1/2 Center Street

"The times are changed and we are changed with them"; yet while rapid studies are being made in improving and perfecting every line of business we still cling to memories of the past. It is now very nearly thirty years since Mr. C.W. Nichols, the well-known and popular photographer, established the second photograph gallery ever started in Rutland. That was in 1859, and he was located over Lewis' drug store in the old building at the corner of Merchants Row and West Street. In those days the art of photography was practically in its infancy, though daguerreotypes and ambrotypes were in quite common use. Mr. Nichols at that time adopted the most approved method of taking pictures, and throughout his long business career in Rutland has kept fully abreast of the time, adopting each improvement in the art as fast as it became known. [Mr. Nichols moved to 21 1/2 Center Street in 1870].

When he began in business, retouching was an unknown art, and it was not until 1865 that in a primitive way it came into use. Later years improved upon it until today, with good chemicals, such photographs may be produced as were not dreamed of in the days of 1859. Following the improvements in the retouching process, came the instantaneous negative, by which an exposure of but a fraction of a second is necessary. Mr. Nichols' assortment of lenses is large and is of sufficient variety to execute any work in the photographer's line, from the small locket photograph to life-size portraits or landscape views [17"x20"]. His price for cabinet size [4"x6"] is \$4 per dozen. Larger or smaller sizes may be obtained at correspondingly low rates. Life-size crayon and India ink portraits are his specialty. Mr. Nichols has obtained an enviable reputation for the correctness of his work in this respect and guarantees that it will be fully equal to any work of this kind done elsewhere.

Picture framing of all kinds is done to order. Mr. Nichols' assortment of framing material is large and varied and the prices are very reasonable. With a thoroughly equipped studio, modern methods and good workmanship this establishment stands proudly upon a record of thirty years of business experience and continues to faithfully serve its long list of customers with the best quality of work at reasonable prices.

Today we have gone well beyond the "instantaneous negative" and many young people can follow a hobby of photography and very easily carry all the equipment they need in one small [compact] camera. Imagine how Mr. Nichols would have enjoyed the changes that have taken place in his beloved talent.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald June 17, 1915

ITALIANS CALLED HOME TO FIGHT

Left Rutland Last Night for New York--Others asked to Report to Consul

Twenty-seven Italian reservists, including eight from this city and a number from Proctor, left Rutland Sunday night on the sleeper for New York, where they will take passage for Italy to join the Italian army. One of the men from this city is a sergeant in the Italian army and is a brother-in-law of Adolpha Fregosi of Rutland. All of the men leaving at this time are second-class reservists, according to Louis Ricci of No. 193 West Street, and are all between the ages of 33 and 38 years old.

Mr. Ricci stated that practically all of the Italian residents of this city and state had been notified through the Italian papers to report their physical and family conditions to the Italian consul at New York and that they could be called upon as needed. Mr. Ricci stated that he was in this class and that he had notified the consul, as had many others in this vicinity, including Pellecrineo [Pellegrino] Bove of No. 191 West Street, also a citizen of this country.

Says Italy can call Citizens of U.S.

When asked if his citizenship would protect him, Mr. Ricci said that every native of Italy was expected to respond when the native country was in danger unless excused from duty by the government on account of family relations or physical disability. Any Italian who neglected to do this would be disbarred from entering his country until 20 years after the war and if he visited Italy before that time he was liable to punishment.

Many Have Families in Italy

It is for this reason that many Italians in Rutland and vicinity, who have wives and children in Italy, will be obliged to respond to the call, or they will be unable to visit their families for 20 years after the close of the war unless they wish to move them to the United States. Mr. Ricci said that any Italian who, before coming to the United States, was a soldier in his own country, but on entering America took out citizenship papers, would also be liable to prosecution if he returned during this time and refused to go at the call of the Italian government. If the war continues other Italians in this country will be obliged to go as soon as called upon by the consul. Several members of the Colombo Italian Aid Society of this city stated that they would be ready to go at a moment's notice if called upon.

Immigration stories always seemed so positive---how did historians miss this tidbit!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald June 10, 1915

BAGGAGE-CHECKING LAW CAUSES DELAY

Passengers Required to Make Signed Declaration of Value of Luggage

Thursday and Friday were busy days at the baggage office in the Rutland depot for the new United States baggage law that went into effect throughout the country and it is said that some of the travelers were much offended at the delay caused by the necessity of making a signed declaration of the value of their baggage before checking it. Baggage Master William Horton said there were many who were surprised at the new law but there were few who made any trouble or who grumbled at the new law, the railroads or the government.

Every interstate traveler is required to state the value of his luggage and the statute makes it a misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment or fine or both to state falsely the value of the baggage. Both the Rutland and the Delaware and Hudson railroads used a printed slip on which the traveler signed his name telling the value whether over or under \$100 and if over, the exact amount. The railroads will collect 10 cents for every dollar value over the \$100 that is carried free.

Mr. Horton said the one feature which would be to the advantage of the railroad employees and the travelers as well would be the requirement of the new law that makes it absolutely necessary for the travelers to be at the station on time for it takes a little time to arrange the checking and valuation.

The declared purpose of the law was to define and fix the liability of railroads for interstate goods in transit. "Any common carrier, railroad or transportation company receiving property for transportation from a point in one state to a point in another state shall issue a receipt or a bill of lading therefor, and shall be liable to the lawful holder thereof for any loss, damage or injury to such property caused by it or by any common carrier, railroad or transportation company to which such property may be delivered, or over whose line or lines such property may pass, and no contract, receipt, rule or regulation shall exempt such common carrier from liability hereby imposed." It also provides that nothing in the new law shall deprive the owner of the goods from suing for loss or damage.

When the question was raised as to whether baggage was included in the amendment, the Interstate Commerce Commission decided that the words "hidden from view" would apply to baggage. The railroads heretofore have limited their liability for a piece of baggage to \$100. Under the new law the railroads cannot limit their liability for damage to or loss of baggage unless they get from each person checking baggage a declaration of its value.

Today on planes the baggage is limited and the lines are to inspect persons and baggage which again causes longer lines and more timely arrivals for the prospective travelers. And we thought we had something new when it came to delays for the travelers departing on their journey!

Tidbits from Then and Now

On April 30, 2003 my "tidbit" was about the clock on the court house that was sent off to war. On further investigation several articles ran in the 1884 - 85 newspapers telling the entire story of the moving of the tower from the center of the courthouse to the front. The following excerpts followed the progress and resolution of an averted catastrophe.

Rutland Daily Herald, December 8, 1884

Just before noon yesterday the heavy cornice of plaster and mortar directly over the judges' desk and witness' stand in the county court room, fell with a crash that jarred the whole building. The noise was very much like the report of a cannon. When the mass struck the court room floor it knocked off the plaster in the sheriff's room below, and although it startled the sheriff and his deputy considerably, they very fortunately escaped injury. Several large masses fell on the judges' seats exactly where the judges sit, and had court been in session, they and others would, no doubt, have been seriously injured, if not killed outright. Now that some repairs must be made immediately, we hope that the commissioners will take the opportunity to make some other desirable and needed improvements in the court room and other parts of the building.

The Rutland Daily Herald and Globe, February 23, 1885

The March term of Rutland county court opens Tuesday, March 10. The court room has been made safe, and after the adjournment there will be thorough repairing. During the temporary repairing the whole west side fell, crashing through the floor directly where the grand jury sits. The center piece also came down with a crash but no one was near. All this falling had been when no one was present and when the building was quiet. It happened when the building was shaken by the ringing of the bell, the tramp of feet or otherwise jarred.

The Rutland Daily Herald, May 20, 1885

Lieut. Gov. Ormsbee of Brandon, A. F. Davis of this village, and Lawyer Abell of West Haven, the committee in charge of the court house repairs, are considering the matter and will have another meeting Monday to take final action. Of course the court room ceiling must be replaced, and all the rooms on that floor will be frescoed. Beyond that, it has been decided to strengthen the roof. This will be done so as to give the ceiling a better support and stop the trembling which now follows the ringing of the bell and is perceived at other times. It is not unlikely that furnace heat may be introduced.

The Rutland Daily Herald, June 12, 1885

The tower on the court house has been moved from the center to the front of the building. The ceiling of the court room has been removed and new timbers are going in to sustain the roof. [June 24, 1885] The stairs from the first to the second floor and from thence to the gallery on the right hand corner of the building going in, have been removed and the space occupied by them is to be partitioned off for rooms, making three new rooms in all.

The Rutland Daily Herald July 6, 1881

“Moving the clock tower to the front of the court-house may be a good idea,” said a man yesterday, “and it may prove a great advantage to those who want to see the clock, but it spoils the cemetery of the building anyway; just spoils it!” ??? Symmetry ??? [The question marks are the newspaper’s comment ----- sounds like an Archie Bunker misuse of the word!]

Rutland Daily Herald, July 16, 1885

A partition has been run across the court room about four feet from the back end, which makes a hall for the judges’ and lawyers’ rooms. The old doors from the stairway into these small rooms have been closed up and new ones made for the hall, so that there is access to the court room from the rear direct from the stairs. [July 25, 1885] The old double-barreled caps on the court house chimneys that have proved a disadvantage, rather than otherwise, are being removed and better ones substituted. [August 14, 1885] The County court room will be practically the best in the state, and certainly it will be the finest in appearance. The more important material changes are the adding of a witness room in front, the making of a hall in the rear and the putting in of heating furnaces. There is also a handsome railing being put around the bar. The new ceiling now shows what it is worth and is doubtless the finest thing of the kind in Vermont. It is all of wood, with elaborate work of beams and panels, and is colored so as to be very attractive to the eye.

September 8, 1885

The remodeling of the interior of the court house was done by Architect M.F. Cummings of Troy, NY. A furnace from the works of Fuller & Warren of Troy, NY costing \$600 was put in on a year’s trial, with a guarantee that if it does not heat the building satisfactorily the money can be withheld. The removal of the unsightly stoves is an improvement which will be readily appreciated. The general opinion is that the committee as acted economically and succeeded in making the best use of the money given them, which has all been laid out. The county now has a court house it may well be proud of.

Tidbits from Then and Now

It always amazes me when I find something out about Rutland that seems to have been lost in the "past". In the late 19th Century the 2-30 Horse Remedy Company was located at 8 Evelyn Street. [Many will remember this block as having housed Mr. Lenoci's Cobbler Shop or Miss Lorraine's School of Dance]. The 2-30 Horse Remedy Company published a 56 page treatise on diseases of the horse entitled "Colt Trainers' Guide". The booklet was published by the Tuttle Company of Rutland

The booklet offers all sorts of information pertaining to the treatment and care of horses. The remedies offered by the 2-30 Horse Remedy Company were compounded by Dr. George H. Farnsworth, prominent veterinarian of Rutland. [Note in the booklet: Dr. Farnsworth followed his natural inclinations. After a thorough common school and academic education he attended the Ontario Veterinary College of Toronto, Canada, graduating in 1885. He was made an Honorary Graduate, which distinction is conferred on but a few whose studiousness and abilities enabled them to rate very high in their examinations during their whole term of studies]

Professor W.H. Sanborn, horse educator and patentee of Sanborn's controlling bit, offers a book on his new and superior methods of educating colts and vicious horses. This book can be obtained from the 2-30 Horse Remedy Company in Rutland for 50 cents. According to Professor Sanborn, the first and most essential thing in educating colts to harness is to bring the mouth under control of the bit. According to the booklet, you can back any green colt in five minutes with Professor Sanborn's Bit.

Prof. W.H.Sanborn's Patent Controlling Bit

If your animals were sick or lame, and you were uncertain as to what the trouble was, you could write to the 2-30 Horse Remedy Company, Rutland, VT, enclose two 2-cent stamps, and get by return mail the proper prescription for the trouble. Anyone who purchased one of the remedies and, after using it according to directions, was not satisfied of its curative powers, could have a refund of money by sending the bottle or package containing one-half of the remedy to the 2-30 Horse Remedy Company, Rutland, VT at the company's expense.

The booklet includes a wide range of advice on illnesses of horses and their cures as well as the use of the remedies. There are numerous testimonials from all around the east coast, from Maine to Virginia.

Professor W. H. Sanborn was another notable resident of Rutland, VT, [as well as John Deere who was born in Rutland], but my question is, What does the 2-30 stand for in 2-30 Horse Remedy Company? Maybe a horseman would know!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, Wednesday, February 5, 1930

Thousand Women Crowd Playhouse For Initial Session of Cooking Classes

Mrs. Lilla P. Cross, Home Economics Expert, Given Enthusiastic Reception By Eager Housekeepers; More Lectures Today

Perhaps a thousand Rutland husbands will have a new recipe tried out on their jaded appetites today. Anyhow a thousand women, it was estimated, filled every available seat in The Playhouse to greet Mrs. Lilla P. Cross yesterday afternoon on her second appearance in the city to conduct the Rutland Herald's Free Cooking School.

Hundreds who enjoyed Mrs. Cross's cooking lessons last year were present to greet her and many who had asked for recipes last season too late to have the requests granted at that time were surprised to find that she had remembered them and was ready to answer these same questions this year.

The stage was set for Mrs. Cross's appearance. Co-operating merchants had generously responded to the requirements and in one corner was a dining set with the table carefully laid with the latest designs in china, silver, linen and even the inevitable flower centerpiece.

Gas ranges, porcelain tables, everything to make home happy, even to the radio and phonograph, were in evidence and the center of the stage was occupied by a large kitchen cabinet fully equipped and supplied.

After greeting the audience Mrs. Cross got down to business and told the women what was the matter with their pie-crust, that it wouldn't stay down over the apple properly, why the cake bobbed up in the middle or rose on one side like an imitation of the Green Mountains instead of rising decorously and evenly all over the top, why the meringue persisted in turning to water next to the cake or pie that might be embellished with it, and why pop-overs wouldn't pop.

On the recommendation of Mrs. Cross the attendees were to plan their grocery shopping trips for the mornings so that they wouldn't miss the afternoon cooking lessons. The following poem reflects the attitude of the men who benefited from these cooking lessons.

THEN AND NOW

How glad I am this "cooking school"
Is starting here again,
And so are Dick, and Tom, and Bob
And all the other men.
We've lived like lords and cheaper, too,
Since wifie went last year;
She learned a lot about the foods,
Which used to taste so queer.

I linger at the table now
and can't get quite enough,
Since Mrs. Cross has been to town;
She sure should have a "puff."
Our Jimmie never would arise,
In time to start for school;
But now he's down at seven o'clock--
Pop-overs are the rule.

I even was afraid to ask
A friend in, just for tea,
Thinking possible provisions
At a low ebb might then be.
Now the table is so loaded
Down with goodies, fresh and fine,
That I'll have the courage later,
To bring anyone to dine.

Dyspeptic and so crabbed--
I doped with many pills,
While all our extra money,
Just went for doctor's bills.
An appetizer I would take;
I could not relish meals.
But now I clean the table off,
And fine my stomach feels.

So thrifty housewives, everywhere,
Who dearly love your men,
Pray don't forget the dates this week,
And bring your pad and pen.
Just lay aside all other plans
And to The Playhouse go,
For Tuesday is the opening day,
And you'll be glad I know.

F.R.B.

Rutland VT

In the past three years in November, the Rutland Herald has presented Taste of Home for the local generation of cooks. It is always very well attended. I guess when it comes down to it, eating has always been one of the most popular subjects!

Tidbits from Then and Now

This week I would like to share with you some of the interesting little tidbits that appeared in the daily newspapers in 1885. Keep in mind that in those days if you were going to visit "Aunt Jane" wherever she might live, that topic appeared in the paper. If you were a stranger to the village, your visit was noted. It is very time consuming to do research in the old papers because they have so many interesting notes. (that must be read!) They can sometimes strike up a giggle by the way they are written. The following are just a "tip" of what's there --time consuming, but fun. Enjoy!

August 15: "I tell you what it is," said a traveling man last night, while sitting in a hotel's window watching the passing crowd, "Rutland has more pretty girls, becomingly dressed, than any place I ever struck. Your boys and young men also are above the average as far as looks and clothes go, and ragged suits seem much less frequent than in other places."

Mr. Fisher, who married a daughter of Judge Hawkins of Brandon, was in town yesterday. He has been for some years special examiner of pensions in Ohio, and but recently lost his official head.

The fire-laddies are indignant because the railroads will not carry them to Chicopee [MA] on the 27th for half fare.

September 9: Ad for Rutland Opera House: "The only sensational event of the season--One night only, Thursday, Sept. 10th--Grand Consolidation--the **Gaiety Burlesque Co. of Ladies only, and Lilly Clay's Company of ladies only**, In the great Paris and London success, the Burlesque entitled- AN- **ADAMLESS EDEN**, Produced with Gorgeous Costumes and Effects by **30 Lady Artists**. 30

October 10: The special delivery system is meeting with very favorable success. During the first week about 25 letters were delivered about town, five of them local letters. The largest number of letters delivered in one day was five, which made the messenger boy's earnings for that day 40 cents. There were 110 stamps sold at the office during the first week.

October 21: Some of the members of Hatch's band serenaded D.C. Parker and his bride Monday night. After playing some very choice music they were invited by Mr. Parker, who is a member of the band, into the house, a bountiful repast was served, and enjoyed by all, and good wishes were tendered to the young married couple.

November 5: Bad weather and too many competing entertainments caused such a light house at the Town Hall last night that Mr. Copeland did not give his lecture. He will come again on the 19th, lecture on "Snobs and Snobbery," and give all profits to the Y.M.C.A.

One of Mrs. F.H. Chapman's wedding presents was a curious clock, from S.B. Whitney of Boston, which runs 400 days without winding. It will soon be exhibited in Mr. Chapman's store.

November 12: J.A. Edson and L. Valiquette caught six pickerel and several suckers in Otter Creek yesterday afternoon. The pickerel averaged about three pounds each.

November 17: The introduction of electric lights has evidently had a good effect on the gas company, as they have begun to use a better grade of petroleum in the manufacture of their illuminant.

November 20: James Haney won the "apple race" at the town hall rink last evening. He put 15 apples into the barrel while the other two contestants put in 14 each. The prize was a pair of skates.

Street Commissioner Ellsworth has a force of nine men at work straightening out the Pine and Mineral Street [Library Ave.] sewer. On Pine Street they found gas and water pipes running through the sewer pipe, which was probably one reason why the pipes were stopped up. The job will cost the village about \$150.

In view of the discussion about adopting the electric light for street use here it is interesting to know that New York City aldermen have just ordered a return to gas, at a savings, it is reported, of \$436,237 a year. The electricity has been used more or less there for four or five years and, on the face of things, this action shows that a full and fair trial has resulted in favor of gas, but the chance of jobs is always great there and the change may mean nothing but more profit to the aldermen.

C.E. Ross, who has been fitting up the basement to his store on Merchants Row for a cloak department, will have an opening of cloaks and wraps today.

November 21: Thanksgiving is surely coming. Nearly two carloads of turkeys were sent to Boston from here yesterday, one the day before, and several more will probably be sent the first of the week. On the other side of the mountain a special poultry train was run to Boston from White River Junction and other points north.

November 24: There are many persons who persistently neglect to read the notice on the mail box in the railroad depot, and deposit local letters there, although the box is intended only for letters going out on the trains. These local letters not only annoy the delivery clerk, who has to sort them out, but are delayed several hours, as they are only gathered at train time and have to be taken up to the post office and mailed.

Tobacco dealers find that the trade in cigarettes has been growing more active within a few months and is so brisk now that it interferes with the sale of cheap cigars. It is a common fact that a certain brand of cigarettes will have almost an exclusive sale for months at a time, when the fashion will change, and there will be an equal call for another variety. Just now the "Sweet Caporal" is in favor, and there has been such an enormous sale that wholesale dealers find it almost impossible to buy them, as the manufacturers cannot make them fast enough. A single firm in town has sold them at the rate of 2300 a week, and hardly any other kinds can be disposed of at all.

December 5: F. Lezer, who was one of the first to subscribe for the electric lights, thought they were not satisfactory after two weeks' trial in his barber shop, and went back to gas. But his last month's gas bill went up to \$9, and he put back his three electric lamps yesterday, which will cost but \$3.75 a month.

December 14: Rutland is threatened with a week of "The Mikado." [!!]

December 15: Nice potatoes are very scarce, but what there are in the market sell for 50 cents a bushel, and a rise in the price will be looked for before long.

Ellenwood Brothers appear at the rink tonight, with complicated skating and bicycle riding. Rielle's band will blow. [!]

The streets were crowded all yesterday afternoon, the major part of the people being women out shopping.

December 18: Louis Schwarz has given up his shop in the rear of the store formerly occupied by him on Merchants Row on account of dull business, and will soon leave town.

The air is full of war stories nowadays, every veteran taking great delight in rehearsing the memories of the fields awakened by the "Battle of Gettysburg."

December 19: The sale of dolls on the lower floor of Baxter bank building by the "Young Ladies of Trinity Church Mission" comes at 2 o'clock this afternoon. There will be no end of dollies sold, including babies and lads and lassies, dressed in all sorts of ways, and even a bridal party. There will also be flowers, aprons and home made candy for sale.

December 28: The ice is said to be "as smooth as glass" on Rocky Pond, and a large company spent Sunday afternoon there on skates.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, April 1, 1886

A BOOM FOR RUTLAND

Rutland is to have a shirt factory. There is no longer any doubt about the matter, as a five years' lease of the building in the rear of the Bates house was signed by the senior member of the firm of Tim, Wallerstein & Co., Tuesday evening, and they are to begin furnishing it with machinery at once. It is expected that the works will start up with about 150 young women. The number will be increased as fast as new help can be trained into the work until about 450 are set to work and the working capacity of the place is filled.

The firm shall take possession May 1, but be allowed to begin putting in machinery April 1. They are to use it for the manufacture of shirts and pay their own water rents. At the end of the lease the company can purchase the property at \$13,000 or hire it another year for \$1,000 pending further arrangements. By vote of the town they will be exempted from taxes for five years.

The building was put up by Joel M. Haven for precisely this kind of work a few years ago. When his venture failed, several local businessmen secured it and are the present owners. The building is made of brick, five stories high and 108 by 42 feet in size. The upper story is now divided off into 34 rooms, which have been used in connection with the Bates house, but these partitions will be removed at once. There is an engine in the building capable of running the machinery, which is included in the terms of the lease.

The members of the firm of Tim, Wallerstein & Co. were first attracted to Rutland by learning that there was a vacant factory here just adapted for their use. On coming here early in February they made a careful study of the town and its surroundings. They were pleased at its enterprise, and found that its railroad facilities were excellent. An added attraction was the opportunity for securing plenty of help, as there are so few women employed in the town or county. As soon, however as it was announced that they were looking for a suitable place for a new factory they were overrun with offers of sites and buildings. The people of North Bennington have been especially persistent, but, Mr. D.L. Morgan of Rutland was more persistent in his efforts to get the factory, and with B.W. Marshall was successful in bringing this about. A subscription paper was started in the middle of February. In spite of the discouragement resulting from the failure of a shoe factory to come here recently, they were in getting the money after two or three weeks..

The firm makes white shirts, and employs about 2,500 hands in five different factories. Their headquarters with the shipping and distribution departments is in Troy and all the shirts are cut there and sent to different factories to be put together. They are then returned to Troy, so that they have to pay double freight between Rutland and Troy in receiving and returning goods. The company is the largest shirt concern in the world and proposes to build up one of its most important branches of business in Rutland. The company deals with wholesale firms alone, supplying them with both laundered and unlaundered shirts.

April 15: Louis Tim, of the firm of Tim, Wallerstein & Co., the shirt manufacturers is in town making arrangements to engage help for the factory. The names of all applicants are recorded and the book will be kept for future use when help is needed, if employment cannot be given to all who now want places.

April 29: Eighteen girls began work in the shirt factory. As they were all inexperienced hands, the number could only be gradually increased, but it would not be long before 300 girls will be at work.

October 4: Business was booming at the new shirt factory. Manager Badger had charge of the 136 machines that are running on the second floor and 60 new hands will begin working in a few days. The girls are making from 75 cents to \$2.00 per day. A number of them received \$30.00 as their pay for the month, while one made \$57.17. Tim & Co. are very pleased with the progress of their shirt factory, which has exceeded their expectations. Eventually there will be 1000 machines while some the the cutting, which is being done in Troy will be brought to Rutland. If the incandescent light is introduced into the building it will require about 120 lights for all the rooms. Slides have been constructed from floor to floor, down which different grades of shirts are sent as they are finished.

By 1895, Tim & Co. had moved to 10-28 Cleveland Avenue. After 1916 the establishment passed through many hands, including two car dealerships. By 1944 Albert Rosenblatt & Sons, dress manufacturer, shared the building with the Marvel Co. which made underwear and pajamas.

The building that housed the original shirt factory was burned in the destructive fire of 1906. The rebuilt building is the one that now connects to the Mead Building.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, October 3, 1895

Otta Quechee [Ottauquechee] valley has just had two days out of the ordinary---a weekday and a Sunday, Friday and Sunday---when farmers and visitors from abroad renewed the memories of Vermont life as they gathered at one of the oldest homesteads of Sherburne [Killington].

The occasion was the first services held in a memorial church, a choice bit of Gothic architecture built of native stone and woods on the site of the birthplace of Mrs. Elizabeth Wood Clement of this city [Rutland]. Mrs. Clement remained over Sunday at the farmhouse which has been fitted up for a rectory and she spoke freely yesterday about the successful completion of the project which she had planned out with so much care.

It is an Episcopal church and a mission church, and is the offering of Mrs. Clement to the memory of her husband and of those of her children who have passed away. But the church is even more than that; it is a tribute to the Vermont farm communities that have lived where nature is the most beautiful to look at and the most difficult to subdue to the purposes of agriculture.

This church is not only a memorial of the past but an invitation for the future. If the alms of its giver are realized, it will be a convenient rallying point where the people can meet socially or for more serious matters, and can thus promote the best interests of all.

The Otta Quechee [Ottauquechee] valley is one of the most unique stretches of verdure [green] to be found anywhere. So narrow that it is little more than a pathway between mountain ranges, it has long attracted the eye of the tourist as he makes his way into the heart of the Green mountains. The valley is now given just a touch of art in the mission church, with its square tower and battlements projected against endless lines of mountain forests. It is a picture.

The church stands on the site of the house in which Mrs. Clement was born, very near the corners of the three townships of Sherburne, Bridgewater and Plymouth. It is built of a very handsome, light-hued granite from Plymouth and is Gothic in architecture, consisting of nave, ante-chancel and sanctuary, with a parish hall which can be opened into it. In the angle of the church and hall stands a square tower, in the upper section of which hangs a bell weighing 1000 pounds. The pews and chancel furniture are of quartered oak, of very satisfactory pattern, workmanship and material. The windows are of cathedral glass of subdued tints and contain a number of finely wrought emblems.

The day was almost a perfect one, and some 200 people, including 20 from Rutland, attended the services, most of whom remained to the luncheon which was served immediately afterward in the house across the way, which is to be the rectory.

Driving east on Route 4 through Otta Quechee [Ottauquechee] valley (generally called the "flat stretch"), a road now leads off to the left called "Mission Church Road" where this beautiful church still stands.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, Thursday, August 5, 1886

How A Bold Swindler Played His Game

A sad example of the "gullibility" of mankind was afforded on Merchants Row Saturday night in the exploits of a street vender who picked up about \$200 from a crowd in a short time and left a number of worthless watch chains in return. About 8 o'clock a man drove up to the depot park with a two-seated livery turnout, and adjusting his naphtha lamps began the usual harangue expected from street venders. He was accompanied by a demure-looking woman on the back seat, who pretended to read a newspaper by the flaring light of the torches. A crowd soon gathered around, and as the glib-tongued speaker entertained them he opened a case and began carefully wiping some showy watches with a chamois skin. After talking aimlessly for half an hour he produced some sleeve buttons, which found ready sale at 25 to 50 cents a pair. With considerable display the vender returned each man's money after delivering the goods, in several cases doubling the amount. This unaccustomed generosity naturally interested the crowd, and gave many assurances of the honesty of the dealer's intentions. "But I will get even with you yet; I am not giving away money tonight" the speaker shouted, but unfortunately the crowd did not catch the import of his words until he was safely out of their reach. Some cheap, gold washed watch chains were then produced, and the man promised a present to every one who bought one of these gaudy trinkets paying a dollar apiece for them. The crowd took this bait with a rush, and the man could hardly supply his victims with chains, while the dollars rolled in until he had disposed of \$150 or more of the worthless chains.

Made bold by success, the man ventured on a different plan. He offered a "gold watch and chain" for \$2, and found numerous purchasers of these. He then made another venture, all the time asking the purchasers of watch chains to be sure and keep near the wagon and get their presents. Taking a paper case he recklessly piled up glittering watches and chains into it, until the eyes of the unsophisticated gamins around fairly bulged out in astonishment. To cap the climax he shut a \$20 bill into the face of one of the watches and offered the whole for \$10. There was a dash for this article, and the man who stood nearest and could get a \$10 bill into the hand of the vender first captured the booty. "Now don't open this," he said to the purchaser, apparently relenting his generosity. "I guess I will have to buy that back from you." Meantime the holders of brass chains got uneasy, undoubtedly because they were envious of the last prize package purchaser. Finding that his articles had glutted the market the speaker rallied watch chain holders around the carriage, and as they waited in eager expectation he drew out a box of steel pens from his vest pocket and condescendingly presented each of his victims with a pen. A general howl arose, but the man was ready for the emergency, and had his things packed, the lights went out in a twinkling, the team whirled away, and before the crowd had recovered from its astonishment the sharpers were safely stowed away in their hotel.

An investigation showed that the man and woman were registered at the Bates house as "G.W. McCurdy and wife," while his accomplice signed his name as "J. H. Bolton." The officers found that they had a regular street vendor's license, and, although they had practically defrauded their purchasers, thought it would be difficult to convict them of obtaining money under false

pretences. It is hardly necessary to add that no \$20 bill could be found in the \$10 package, and that the brass watches had paper faces and no works.

In a later edition of the newspaper, it is noted that "J.H. Bolton" and the young woman were fined, but "G.W. McCurdy" was never located. I guess times haven't changed that much--just the method of "duping"!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Jeanne Smith found the following items among her family's "treasures" while doing genealogical research.

Directions for Cure of asthma to Woodbury Langdon by his son-in-law, Dr. Eunista

"Early in the morning begin to drink sweet whey. Through the day drink as much as you can. If it proves cathartic, bear it for a day or two. If after two days, it continues too much so, drink a glass of gin twice or three times a day and eat a piece of dry salt fish or cheese. Whey with bread and milk should form the whole diet. Common ginger bread, well gingered, may be eaten and this course followed for 6 weeks. If weakened by it, lay down and rest.

"The day time [is to be] spent walking in the fields, but more in the barns, cowyard, and visits to the hog pen so long as you can make them.

"A full meal may not be eaten during this [time]. One glass of gin, or in want thereof, rum every night. Use friction to the body morning and evening."

Can you imagine the asthma being cured--that is, if you lived through the cure!

"I found this handwritten and folded in one of my grandmother's cook books. I copied it over and as the original was falling apart. I left the spelling just as it was written" --Jeanne

"Receet" [recipe] for Washing Clothes

- "1. Bild [build] fire in backyard to heet [heat] kettle of rain water.
2. Set tubs so smoke won't blow in eyes if wind is pert [lively].
3. Shave one whole cake of lie [lye] soap in billin [boiling] water.
4. Sort things, make 3 piles-1 pile white-1 pile collord [colored] 1 pile work britches and rags.
5. Seer [stir] flour in cold water to smooth then thin down with billin water.
6. Rub dirty spots on board, scub [scrub] hard, then bile [boil]. Rub cullard [colored] but don't bile-just starch.
7. Take white things out of kettle with broomstick handle then rench,[rinse] bley [blue] & starch.
8. Spread tee [tea] towels on grass.
9. Hang old rags on fence.
10. Pour rench [rinse] water on flower beds 1 l. Scrub porch with soapy water.
12. Turn tubs up side down.
13. Go put on clean dress--smooth hair with side combs--brew cup of tee[tea]--set and rest a spell and count your blessins."

These were such wonderful finds that I just had to share them with you.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, August 4, 1948

Prisoner Scales Fence to Escape For Third Time

Neatly attired in a gray suit she was scheduled to wear into court, a 19-year-old Riverside Reformatory inmate, escaped from prison for the third time. She made good her escape by scaling a 15-foot barbed wire fence with the aid of a blanket taken from her prison bed. Jailed originally on a grand larceny charge, the woman was returned to the Reformatory only last week after three months of freedom gained on her second successful break from the institution.

Her first break was New Year's Day when she was at large for three days after sneaking out of the building while the others were enjoying a mild holiday celebration. An attendant went to unlock the girl's room at 7 A.M. and discovered the wire mesh covering over half the door had been removed and the prisoner was gone. She had climbed to the fourth floor of the building, down a fire escape into a barbed wire enclosure and over the fence with the aid of the blanket. The enclosure at the foot of the fire escape was used for drying laundry. A butcher knife used to remove the screws from the mesh over the door was found in a bureau drawer by the authorities.

Local and state police, alerted by the superintendent threw out roadblocks in an attempt to intercept the fugitive. Police Chief J. Fred Carbine said first leads pointed southward where a girl fitting the description to a "T" was seen on a back road to Wallingford after breakfasting on coffee and doughnuts at a diner in North Clarendon. Later she was seen in a Wallingford store where "she didn't buy anything," according to Chief Carbine. The only conflicting part of the description, according to the chief, was the woman reported to authorities was wearing blue jeans instead of a suit skirt. Along with Federal Bureau of Investigation men who were notified, the search was aided by Sheriff Geno N. Franzoni.

In addition to the natty gray checked suit, the escaped woman was wearing white loafer shoes and carrying a square white handbag slung over the shoulder with a white strap. She had asked for the clothes because she was soon to appear in Rutland Municipal Court to face charges of breaking jail last year.

In between escapes she worked in the prison laundry and dining room. Her first sentence was on July 15, 1946. She was paroled on December 21, leaving shortly afterward for Montpelier where she broke her parole by going to Washington, D.C. She was captured and returned to Riverside on December 19, 1947, got out 14 days later, was returned again on January 4, 1948, left on April 16 and was found on July 27. -----[**NOW SHE'S GONE AGAIN!!**]

In the same edition was the following cartoon which I couldn't resist combining with this article.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, November 18, 1886

NEW BASE BALL RULES

Important Changes Made By the Revision Committee

Four Strikes and five Balls to Be Allowed

November 15. The joint rules committee, consisting of A. G. Spalding, John J. Rogers of Philadelphia and John B. Day of New York, representing the National league base ball organization, and Jack Phelps of Louisville, O.P. Caylor of Cincinnati, and William Barnie of the Baltimores, representing the American association, began its meeting at the Tremont house this morning. The work of the meeting will be to arrange a set of playing rules that will be agreeable to both organizations and do away with the system now in vogue. In place of a stone at the home plate a base similar in size but made of white rubber was recommended. The position of the first and third bases was moved seven and one half inches, so that the boys would be inside the foul lines, thereby helping the umpire in deciding whether the hit fell in fair or foul ground. The new rules of the American association concerning the position of coaches were favorably received. They require that the coacher shall not be nearer than 65 feet to the home plate, thereby preventing a coacher from running along the line from the third base to the home plate to disconcert the opposing player. Action on the pitchers' rules and location of the pitcher's box was laid over until tomorrow.

It was unanimously agreed that in future all clubs playing by the national agreement shall use a Spalding or Reach ball. This was done to prevent the using of "dead" balls, soft balls or "lively" balls, by other associations in their exhibition game with league or association clubs or to make a standard ball. It was also required of the American association that each ball must be weighed, measured and sealed, with the name of the secretary upon the box containing the ball. In using of two balls the committee suggests that when a ball is batted out of sight of the players another must be substituted, instead of waiting until the batted ball is returned. When even a ball is ripped or damaged, another must at once be brought into play. The American association was allowed to use a flat bat if it so desires. The league field rules, with slight modifications, were also extended to the association teams.

November 16--The following changes have been made by the base ball committee today: The high and low ball system of delivery has been abolished, any ball now being considered fair that passes the player between his shoulder and knee and passes over the plate. Bunting will not be allowed. Any obvious attempt to make a foul hit will be scored as a strike. Clubs will not toss for a choice of position, the right of choice invariably resting with the home club. Five balls and four strikes will be allowed., instead of six balls and three strikes as heretofore. When a batsman takes his base on balls he shall be credited with a base hit. A batsman shall take his base when struck by a pitched ball. Any motion whatever on the part of the pitcher made to deceive the batter, shall be considered a balk.

Additional changes in the rules provide that if in running to a base the runner touches and detaches the base bag without being touched by the baseman, he will be safe. Only Captains of the clubs can question any decision of the umpire. The old rule requiring a runner to return to his base on a run when a foul hit is made was rescinded and hereafter the runner can walk to his base. No runner can have a substitute run for him in case of injury, but if hurt must retire from the game. A batter is out on the fourth strike under the new rules, whether ball is dropped or passed by the catcher. The question of having two umpires and a referee was brought up, but a majority of the committee voted against the scheme and it was dropped.

The pitcher's box was shortened to five and a half feet and the pitcher will be required to keep his forward foot firmly on the ground when about to deliver the ball. His rear foot must be on the back line of the box and he will be allowed to take but one step when delivering the ball. The ball must be held in plain view of the umpire. The pitcher cannot as heretofore deliver the ball to the batter after making a feint to throw it to first base, but must resume his position in his box. Only two coaches will be permitted and they shall have the right to talk to the base runners only. For talking to the batsman, the coacher will be reprimanded for the first offense and be forced to give up his coaching and another man put in his place on a repetition of the fault.

In scoring, when the batter is given his base on called balls a hit is credited to the batter and an error given to the pitcher in the summary only. All batting errors are charged in the summary, as are earned runs, two and three base hits, home runs, double plays, base on balls, wild pitches, time of the game and name of the umpire. The pitcher will be given no credit for a strike out. In place of total bases, the record of stolen bases will be kept. Any attempt made by a player to steal a base must be credited, whether an error is made or not, if the runner is successful in reaching the base.

Imagine if these were the rules today!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, October 21, 1886

River Street Crossing

Some time ago the selectmen of Rutland invited proposals from six of the leading manufacturers of iron bridges in this country for constructing a bridge over the Rutland railroad and the Bennington railroad at River Street, near the south end of this village. Thus far they have received answers from but three. They will wait a little longer and then submit what they have to the railroad companies and see if an arrangement can be made for a division of the expense. It is not unlikely that a bridge will be constructed there before the year is out.

1886-1887 Town Report

The project of an iron bridge on River Street, over the railroad tracks, has been before the town at the last four town meetings and has received favorable action. A petition signed by a large number of taxpayers was presented to the selectmen last spring, asking that the bridge be built. Mr. E. A. Morse and Mrs. Judge Prout offered to give a strip of land to improve the entrance at the east end. Most of the railroad managers were disposed to share the expense with the town, but the officers and the lessees of the Rutland Railroad could not agree about the matter. The selectmen did not feel like building the bridge without any help from the railroads, until further and more definite action should be had in town meeting. The necessary articles have been inserted in the warning. Detailed plans and estimates were obtained from three of the largest bridge concerns in the country. A first class iron bridge at that point 300 feet in length and ample for the present and prospective needs of the town will cost about \$12,000.

1888-1889 Town Report

We have received plans and bids for River Street bridge, which have been submitted to the different railroad companies, but they were not satisfactory to them and they refused to contribute their proportion of the cost. Within a few days, however, the railroad companies have made a proposition and new plans acceptable to them are being drawn and it is probable that before our town meeting the matter will be satisfactorily arranged so that the bridge will be built during the coming summer.

1890-1891 Town Report

The bridge has been completed and opened for travel, and all bills for the construction thereof have been paid. Agreement was made after considerable delay with the different railroad by which a portion of the cost of construction has been paid back to the town. The amounts received aggregate \$8,098.78, apportioned as follows: Bennington & Rutland Railway Co., \$1,168.60; Delaware & Hudson Canal Co., \$3,005.79; Rutland Railroad Co., \$3, 924.39.

There were several large items which have entered into the cost of the bridge which the railroads claimed had not entered into their calculations of the expense of the bridge, and which they

refused to pay a proportionate part of, such as the iron railings, the Post Street approach, the bill of the Vermont Marble Co., for services of Patch, and the land damage for the east abutment, etc.

Claims have been made for the selectmen to pay to Mr. A. F. Davis, Mrs. Gilfeather and Daniel Gerrity for damages caused to their properties on account of the construction of the bridge, and litigation is threatened. The attention of the town is brought to this subject in an article in the warning.

The first River Street steel bridge was built by the Hilton Bridge Construction Company of Albany, New York, at a cost of \$14,000. It was completed and opened for travel in 1890. It was condemned and razed in the summer of 1924. A replacement steel and concrete structure was begun on July 22, 1924. It was opened to pedestrian and vehicular traffic by the end of the year. The new bridge cost \$58,000.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald September 3, 1885

Nine little tidbits!

* The prospect is that the coming county fair will be the best ever held. More applications have been made for space than ever before. Twenty-five head of cattle, a lot of sheep, etc., from the Maple Grove stock farm will be shown. S.L. Griffith will exhibit some of his celebrated Holsteins, Edward Congdon of Clarendon will make a large show of cattle, A.M. Winslow of Brandon will show a herd of Ayrshires, and Gov. Proctor has asked for 10 pens for swine, etc., and will also exhibit a number of his working teams. Gov. Pingree, Lieut. Gov. Ormsbee of Brandon, Speaker Batcheller, Judge Redington and Ex-Gov. Proctor will be present and make short addresses Wednesday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. The marshal is Henry C. Hayward, with Bert White and R.M. Spaulding as assistants. Excursion rates are offered on all the railroads, and stock and articles for exhibition will be carried free.

* Somebody who counted says that it rained on 17 of the 31 days of August.

* The great powers at Washington have consented and the post office will have the electric lights.

* The meeting of telephone subscribers at Village hall Monday evening was attended by but about 15 subscribers, and there was nothing accomplished beyond talking which went to show that resistance to the advance was hopeless for the present, and that the people must pay what the monopoly demands or give up the instruments.

* A member of the committee appointed some time ago to see if coal could be got here at lower prices, says that the committee is waiting an answer to its questions from the railroad. Coal is selling in Whitehall for \$4 net, and is carried through Rutland to Bellows Falls for 10 cents a ton cheaper than the railroads charge to bring it here.

* Along with the good apple crop promised in this vicinity comes a good prospect in the butternut trees. It will be a winter with butternuts and cider.

* The father of all the mushrooms was brought into The Herald office Friday by Ruel Todd, who found the vegetable on Green Arnold's farm, south of the village. It is of the white, spherical kind of mushroom which becomes a "puff ball," ordinarily the size of a man's fist, but this specimen would nearly fill a bushel basket. It is 55 inches in circumference, and weighs 17 pounds.

* The mother of all the mushrooms was brought into the Herald office Monday by William Lombard, a brakeman on the Addison road, who got it at Ticonderoga. It is 56 inches in circumference, one-half inch larger than the one brought in by Mr. Todd. [At least the father mushroom came from Rutland!]

* A joke is going the rounds at the expense of a local bar tender. A man with a game leg, which he has to "favor" so that it makes a difference of about a foot and a half in his height whether he stands on that or supports himself on its fellow [other leg], walked in, halted on the brief leg so that his head just reached the bar, and asked for a glass of beer. The man of fluids drew it, and, while his back was turned the customer "changed cars" so that when the mixer turned around there was a tall man before him. And that bar keeper looked and looked after the dwarf who had ordered the beer, peeked over the bar and under it and all around, and finally asked the tall man where in blazes that blanked little cuss that wanted the beer had gone!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, September 10, 1885

A TALE OF A SLUNG SHOT

While N____ S____ was at the Municipal court paying a \$40 fine for liquor selling and keeping, there was trouble going on at the S____ mansion. D____ D____, who went there after liquor, began to search the house when he found the hostess was out. He discovered a large jug with half a gallon of whiskey in it, and he promptly drank all he dared, and put it in a shed near by for future reference. A young man, just graduated from the work house, saw the suspicious looking jug as it came from the house, and noted the hiding. D____ soon got hilarious from the effects of his drink, and when he started back after another swallow, the other man was making away with the jug. He started in pursuit, only to be discovered by N____, who had returned and was searching for her whiskey. "Bedad, I'll fix 'em." she screamed, and, finding a long stocking, loaded it at the toe with a good sized stone. With this improvised sling shot flourishing wildly about her head she started in pursuit of the two and brought down D____, who was too drunk to run much or to capture the other man, and she did not find it necessary to use the weapon to bring him to time [under control], but went for an officer who took him to the station house. He pleaded guilty to intoxication before Judge Landon, and was fined \$5 and costs. He also pleaded guilty to the charge of larceny, in stealing the jug and whisky. The judge told him that he could not be fined for taking the whisky as the law did not recognize such an article as property in Vermont. The fine for stealing the jug was \$1 and the costs in both cases were \$23, so that D____'s day's spree cost him nearly \$30.

This was actually an event that took place in Rutland! Things weren't so "serene" in those days after all!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland County Independent, 1866

How To Go To School

James Bourne has never been to school till this fall. Of course, as it is a new thing to him, he must learn how to do it, just as he has to learn how to do other things. So we will tell him how to go to school, and when he knows how, we shall expect him to be one of the best boys there.

He must go clean and neat. His face and hands must be washed, his hair brushed, his clothes whole and clean, his shoes black, and his hat whole and in shape.

He must go in good time. He must not stay out to play so long, that to fix up and get to school will make him late. He must not wait for mamma to call him, for she may be very busy, and may forget it, but he must think of it himself, and be on hand and be sure to start from home in time to get there before the door is shut.

He must go with a smile on his face. It is a sad thing to see a boy go to school with a frown and a pout on his face, as though school was an ugly prison, where he must be shut up, like a bad boy.--Ah! the frowns and pouts make mamma feel sorry, when he leaves her, and they make the teacher feel sorry when he gets to school

Now, how must he act in school? He must sit quite still. The boy that moves and moves and moves in his seat all the time, troubles the teacher a great deal. She likes best the quiet little chap that sits so still, and never speaks but when she speaks to him. So you must not keep on the move, nor talk to the boys near you, and take care not to drop your slate or book, or lunch-box, to make a noise.

He must not eat. No, the bread, the pie, and cake, and grapes, in his box, are for him to eat at recess, and he must not open the box, to look at or touch the nice things there, till the bell rings, and all have leave to run and play and eat.

He must try to learn. What the teacher tells him he must keep in mind. He must never say I can't but I will try. If a lesson is hard, never mind, but study hard, and you will be sure to have it.

He must speak the truth. Yes, and act the truth too. He must not try to hide his faults when he has done wrong, but own it up in a manly, noble way.--he must never say no when he ought to say yes, or say yes when he ought to say no. He must not copy a sum from the next boy's slate, and act as if he had done it himself. He must not look on his book slyly, to read of the lesson, nor let anyone whisper him the right word in the class. When he does know, he must say so, right out straight.

Now I am sure, if James minds all these things, he will be a good boy, and his teacher will love him; and he will love to go to school too, which is more than some boys do that I know.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Excerpts from the annual report of the Librarian of the Rutland Free Library
July 1, 1953--June 30, 1954

The effectiveness of the weekly book column in the *Rutland Daily Herald* in promoting good reading is dramatically pointed up in the enthusiastic comment of a patron when she returned a book, "That's one of the best books I've ever read, and if it had not been for the Herald book column I would not have known about it!" Through the many talks the Librarian makes, the weekly column in the newspaper, exhibits in the library, discussions sponsored by the library, lectures, forums and workshops, the library is stimulating the citizens in our community to read more thoughtfully.

The object is not circulation so much as it is more thoughtful reading. Throughout America there is a trend in reading toward nonfiction and away from fiction. Part of this may be due to the poor quality fiction that is being written and published today. Part of it may be due to the better nonfiction that is being written and also to the public demand for facts and information. It is obvious that our citizens are using the Library more and more in their self-education, in their efforts to be better informed citizens of a democracy, in their continual seeking to raise their standards of living and in a better use of leisure.

With the costs of labor still rising, more American people are doing their home improvements themselves. The result is a great increase in the number of how-to-do-it books and in the subjects covered. Many Rutland people today are trying their hand at furniture repair, building cupboards, improving and repairing their houses, laying walks, landscaping, building their own garages, making shelves, lamps, tables, draperies and a thousand and one other well designed comforts around a house--all through the help of books they get at the Rutland Free Library. A number of Rutland men are studying television servicing through the help of the latest publications at this library.

Books on the crafts, such as weaving, rugmaking, jewelry making and ceramics, are very much in demand. For the first time in the history of the Rutland Free Library, a small allotment was appropriated for the purchase of phonograph records. On an experimental basis a rental phonograph record collection was inaugurated.

A responsibility of our library is the promotion of a wise use of leisure time. Sometimes a wise use of leisure time might involve playing golf, another time it might mean sitting in an armchair and doing some reflective thinking. For one person it might mean engaging in deep thought over a chessboard, for another it might mean the soothing calm of a nature walk or the reading of a good novel. In whatever constructive manner in which one of our citizens desires to use leisure, the library can help toward greater enjoyment of it.

Classes in American citizenship and English continue under the able leadership of Miss Katherine Purcell, Miss Mary Moher and Miss Dorothy Hanford. The classes are definitely helping new Americans become citizens sooner than they otherwise would. With the help of the

new phonograph record player donated by the Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion, the class will be able to make use of the latest teaching methods.

The very popular children's film program was made more dynamic this past year. We capitalized on the interest of children in movies and television and used that interest to lead them to reading. Some programs have been sparked by the story telling of Georgia Louras, a Rutland High School senior who has been studying the art of story telling. In one of the programs creative dancing was introduced by young dancers under the direction of Miss Glorya Stanley.

It would be impossible to realize a dynamic Rutland Free Library without the cooperation and understanding of our capable and friendly staff. Mr. George Myers, the faithful and conscientious custodian, served beyond the call of duty. When there was a snowstorm on his day off, he came and worked all day, if necessary, to clear the walks. He takes pride in his work and, at the time the old water heater was not operating, even brought hot water from home to wash the floors.

We are living at a crucial time in world history. To be intelligent citizens in a democratic society we must be well informed. We must keep abreast of the ideas of others. We cannot intelligently arrive at a conclusion until we have learned what others think through serious reading and through discussion. The survival of a democratic society is dependent upon well informed citizens who do not stop their education with the completion of high school or college.

So, how are we doing today?

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, October 23, 1913

THIS IS BEE HUNTING SEASON

October is Said to Be Best Time for "Lining"

A Successful Expedition Means Plenty of Hard Work and Lots of Honey--Its Fun Even if You Fail to Locate the Sweets--Directions For Hunting.

You have all heard of a "bee line," but perhaps only a few of you have ever put the knowledge to practical use. So far the lawmakers have not specified a closed season for bees. October is the chosen time for such an expedition, because then the winter supply of honey is already gathered and stored. Cruel, do you say? So is all hunting, for, in this part of the world, in only a few, isolated cases is hunting carried on as a real means of providing food for the family. This is the method of procedure in scientific bee hunting.

Making the Trap

First make your trap, which consists of a wooden box nine to 12 inches long, three to four inches wide and three inches deep; although some hunters prefer a smaller size that will go in the coat pocket and not be noticeable to your neighbor, who may be trying to locate the same colony. This box should be divided into three square compartments opening into each other by means of a small round hole fitted with a slide of tin or other thin material, and having nailed to the outside a loop of the tin, which when slipped over a stake, will hold the box stationary. Two of the compartments should be covered with glass at the top (one permanently and the other with a glass slide), the third left open. Then provide yourself with a wooden paddle, the blade large enough to cover the top of the open compartment, and the handle conveniently shaped. Place in the second closed compartment some honey comb over which a small amount of anise had been poured and you are ready for the chase. Choose a bright, sunshiny morning and wear your old clothes. You are likely to have some rough climbing to do, and at best the shoemaker and the haberdasher are apt to get their innings as a result of the trip. But "forget it," and turn your attention to the beauties of nature about you as you stroll on with no definite goal in view, unless it be some particularly warm and sunny nook where the late golden rod and asters still bloom.

Here you may find the bees anxiously gleaning the last sweets of the season for winter store. Watch quietly till you see one that seems particularly busy over its work, then slip up and deftly slide the open end of the bee box under the flower, tumble off the bee into the open box with your paddle, keeping the opening carefully closed, which, of course, makes the inside of this compartment totally dark. Draw the slide which closes the opening into the next glass covered compartment and the bee will immediately follow to the light. You now have one captive and are ready to repeat the performance until you are tired or the available supply is exhausted. Now take the box to some cleared knoll that commands a view of the open country, if possible. Open the slide in the third compartment containing the anise flavored honey and the bees will follow and get busy at once. It is probable that they look upon this unexpected feast as the winter store

of their tame cousins, and the spirit of plunder is strong upon them. Flowers are scarce at this season, and a good meal with something to carry home is welcome. When they have had their fill, open the glass slide at the top and let out one bee. This is the critical moment and calls for clear eyesight and concentrated attention. The bee has its honey sac full and will make a "bee line" for its home. Follow in the direction it takes, keeping the bee in sight as long as possible. When you lose sight of this one, let out a second, and repeat the process. When you think you have the direction move the box to a different angle and cross line to make doubly sure. When you have exhausted your supply of bees, or if you fail to get the direction clearly in mind by this first method, fasten the box by the loop on its side over a stake or sapling, possess your soul in patience and wait. When the bees already liberated reach home, they will communicate the news of their find to the rest of the family and will bring back some of the members with them, until you have a strong line of workers coming and going, and can reasonably expect to be able to follow this line to the goal.

It may mean some rough climbing; a crevice in the side of the cliff and a hollow limb in a great oak are among the favorite haunts of wild bees. At least it is an occupation which requires considerable patience with the true sportsman's spirit behind it. But if you do not gain the plunder you are after you cannot fail of gaining health and strength from this glorious October sunshine, and if, by the way, you study God's great out-of-doors you will be fully repaid for your time and labor. If you are fortunate enough to find the bee tree or the honey packed rock crevice, the spoils vary in amount from 10 to 50 pounds. It is only necessary to smoke out the bees and while they are dormant carry off the booty. The honey is dark in color and of a peculiar rich flavor, which combines in a most toothsome manner with the buckwheat cakes that are coming into fashion these frosty mornings, or is equally delicious with hot biscuit when you come home tired after a day's work.

Anyone for bee hunting?

Tidbits from Then and Now

From Rutland Historical Society Quarterly Vol 33 No. 3 - 2003

Recently the Rutland Historical Society presented an episode on Italian immigration to Rutland in its *Historically Speaking* television series on Channel 15. Viewer interest in this episode led to the formation of an ad hoc committee of the Society that is working on documenting the Italian community of the Rutland area. The Society hopes that this research will document who the families were, their relationship with other Italian families and the towns in Italy from which they came. The availability of the 1920 and the 1930 censuses, as well as the Ellis Island web site and search engine through the internet, make this research project possible, although long and tedious. The Ellis Island web site can be reached at www.ellislandrecords.org.

In working on this project, the Society found a *Directory of the Fifth Grand Masquerade Ball* given by the Rutland Lodge #414 of the Sons of Italy on 7 February 1921 at Dunn's Hall on the fourth floor of the Dunn Building at 14 Merchants Row [building north of the Opera House]. This listing of over 500 Italians in the Rutland area is not a complete listing but it does give a most helpful list of Italian names as written by native speakers. While many of the names have suffered further anglicization today, the data is a useful tool in correctly identifying families whose names were garbled or anglicized in the 1920 census. In addition, the directory includes addresses of where people lived in 1921.

On 1 March 1914, a group of Italians, recently arrived from southern Italy, organized a mutual aid society in Rutland. About 40 members participated in an organizational meeting at which they elected Domenico Paolucci as president and Gerado Ricci as vice-president. Other officers included Antonio Bizzarro, Angelo Iannetti, Alfredo Francioni, Giuseppe Ragosta, Giovanni Di Lorenzo and Nicola Romano. On 11 July 1915, the local group received a charter for its Christopher Columbus Lodge #414 of the Sons of Italy.

The 1921 masquerade ball was perhaps the most successful of any Italian dancing function held in Rutland in many years. Over 600 people, including Mayor and Mrs. James C. Dunn and other non-Italian dignitaries, attended the event in Dunn's Hall. An orchestra under the direction of John Cocklin provided music for dancing. Surprisingly, the music was not Italian, but American popular songs of the time, consisting of one-steps, waltzes and fox trots. Pieces before intermission included: Noah's Wife, Bells, Sunny Tennessee, Feather Your Nest, Pickaninny Rose, Chili Bean, Wishing Land, Rose of My Heart, Avalon, Honolulu Eyes, Japanese Sandman, and If You Could Care. After an intermission the dance continued with: I'm a Jazz Vampire, Little Curly Head, Hop Skip and Jump, Rosie, Grieving For You, Everybody Knows, Humming, Hiawatha's Melody of Love, Margy, and When I Looked in Your Eyes.

The listing of names from the Directory were published with original spellings except for the correction of obvious typographical errors.

As a result of the Quarterly publication a picture of this gathering was discovered and it seemed to be worthy of an article so that people would have the opportunity to possibly identify one or more persons in the picture. It is hoped that this may stimulate additional interest in the Society's Italian project. If you have information to contribute or would like to help with the project, Contact Michael Dwyer at 483-6993.

A copy of the Quarterly may be purchased for \$2.00 by contacting the Rutland Historical Society at 96 Center Street, which is open Monday evenings from 6-9 PM and Saturday afternoons from 1-4 PM.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 19, 1883

The New Clement Block

On January 14th, 1875, the corner of Evelyn Street and Merchants Row was made desolate by the flames, which consumed the old Central House and hostelry, which had contributed to the creature comforts of so many weary and worn travelers. The corner presented a most forbidding appearance, and continually reminded the passerby of the terrible and utter destruction that followed the flames.

In August of 1882, Charles Clement commenced the erection of one of the finest, if not the finest block in the State, which has just been completed by the placing of the magnificent timepiece which adorns the tower. We have critically examined this structure, and we feel satisfied that a description of it will not prove uninteresting to our readers, for it is an ornament to Rutland.

The building is made of pressed brick, laid in cement, with dark stone trimmings, no inflammable material presenting itself to tempt the destroyer of its much more humble predecessor.

The style of architecture is Medieval. The plinth, [brick tile that forms the molding from which the arch springs] which is entirely Roman in its character and origin, and the arch, invented and first used by the Greeks, the first example of which was found in the wall at Tiryns, Greece, makes it Greco-Roman, as the walls of the building are formed entirely of these plinths and arches.

The ground floor of the building is occupied by the Clement National Bank, the State Trust Company and the clothing store of J.A. Gould. The counting room of the banking companies occupies the south portion of that floor and is one of the best adapted to its purpose of any similar room in Rutland. The banking and directors' rooms are finished in oak, natural color, with wainscoting surrounding the rooms about six feet high, the balance of the walls to the ceiling being tinted with a dark somber color. The counter which extends across two sides of the room is surmounted by a strong netting of wire which would prevent access to the offices of the bank.

The vault, which is very large and roomy, made of welded iron and steel and furnished with ponderous doors and time locks, is provided with a safe of the most approved pattern, and contains 65 safety deposit boxes for the use of individuals having securities or other valuables which are deposited here for safe keeping. A large portion of these boxes are already rented. The

floor of these two rooms is almost on a level with the street, therefore it is not necessary to ascend a flight of steps to gain access to them.

To reach the upper stories of the building, one has not to toil up long flights of stairs; but stepping into a passenger elevator, the only one, we think, in the State, ten seconds only is consumed in reaching the top floors; and as this is quicker than a person can walk up one flight of stairs, it really makes those upper rooms the most desirable ones for offices, as they are away from the noise and confusion of the street, and through the elevator, are as accessible as those on the ground floor.

The elevator is one of the most approved patterns of the Otis make, and is provided with a governor which controls its speed so that should any of the cables give way that carry the car, it would only be permitted to descend at the usual rate of speed, thereby avoiding any danger to its occupants.

The rooms are designed for offices and so arranged that they can be used singly or thrown together and used as a suite of rooms. They are all faced on the street, so there are veritably no rear ones, and the windows, which are large are exceedingly well arranged to afford the most and best possible light.

Each room and floor in the building is provided with steam heat radiators, so that every part is uniformly warm. The different stories are also provided with closets and toilet rooms of the latest and best styles. In the basement two tubular boilers supply steam for the heating of the entire building. Besides the occupants already named, the following have rooms in it: The New England Fire Insurance Co.; Burnham & Temple, insurance; Barrett & Barrett, lawyers, and Redington & Butler, lawyers.

The clothing store of J. A. Gould is too well known by most of our readers to need any description from us. We will say, however, that the room is admirably arranged for the business carried on there, having an entrance on both Merchants Row and Evelyn Street.

We have given this detailed description of this building because it is wholly worthy of it, and is probably the best and most complete in all its appointments of any in the State. We are sure our readers will be as much interested as were ourselves by an examination of the building, and Messrs. Clement & Sons will be glad to show it to any who wish to examine it.

The elegant timepiece which surmounts the tower and fittingly crowns the edifice is a public benefit and will, as the months and years go by, be more and more fully appreciated by the citizens of Rutland. The illuminating dial is very fine and will be highly appreciated during the hours of darkness.

This beautiful block still remains today and was recently refurbished back to its original majesty. Do we really appreciate all the beautiful architecture that has graced Rutland for so many years? Take a good look around--come down off the highway and cruise some of the side streets on the way to the downtown--see where the real Rutland can be found.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, October 24, 1932

K. OF C. FOLLIES TO GIVE OPENER TONIGHT

Cast of 150 to Present Entertainment at High School Auditorium

The initial performance of the K. of C. Follies, sponsored by Rutland council, will be given tonight at 8:15 o'clock at the High School auditorium. A cast of 150 persons, including some of the city's best talent, which has been rehearsing for more than two weeks under the direction of Edmund Hill, will present the program of music and specialties. The entertainment will be repeated tomorrow night and Wednesday night at the same hour.

The production will be in two parts, the first of which will consist of eight acts. The initial one is entitled "The Court of Syncopation," and the leading parts will be taken by Archie Stewart as the judge; George Reedy, bailiff; Paul Bresnahan, defendant, and Louis Provost, plaintiff. The jury is made up of Ida King, Hilda Morse, Norma Prior, Martha Morgan, Gertrude Sabourin, Mary Lanzillo, Marguerite Loveday, Elizabeth Costello, Rene LaFay, Dorothy Frazier, Betta Howley and Bernice Beauchamp.

The second act is a skit, "Desperate Desmond," by Burns Martin. The next is "The Singing Lesson," in which the parts are taken by Margaret Kelly, Ethel Barrett and Frank Ryan. The fourth act, which is expected to be one of the hits of the show, is "The Bathing Beauty Contest," in which the "Beauties" will be Chief of Police Roy H. Leonard, Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, James LaDuc, Francis Burnham, Lawrence Culver, James Walsh and Harold Martel.

In the skit, "If Men Played Cards as Women Do," the card "sharks" will be Dr. Joseph Corley, James LaDuc, Thomas Porter and Andrew Ducharme. Margaret MacGregor is starred in "Manhattan Walk," supported by the court scene chorus. A short sketch, "Three Weeks," will be staged by John Clark, Tracy Levins, Richard Costello and Thomas Porter.

The last part of the entertainment will be a glorified minstrel show, in which solos will be given by Francis Sabourin, George Reedy, Andrew Ducharme, Frank Ryan, Archie Stewart, Paul Bresnehan, Louis Provost, James Foster and Earl Gleason. Dances will be given by Francis Pelkey and Mildred Shelvey.

The minstrel chorus will be made up as follows: Janet McCormick, Dot Frazier, Hilda Morse, Martha Morgan, Norma Prior, Elizabeth Costello, Mary Phalen, Mauvey Loveday, Bernard Vondette, Raymond Vondette, Louis Provost, Robert Lanahan, Arthur Castle, Clarence Dutelle, Richard Costello, Bradley Magner, Edward Slattery, Jennie Lanzillo, Mary Lanzillo, Mary LaFay, Mary Sabataso, Ida King, Pauline Howard, Alma Raymond, Rita West, Helena Williams, Elizabeth Kingsley, Frances Pitaniello, Mary Riter, Kathleen McGarry, Madeline Gosselin, Elizabeth Keefe, Ursula Morris, William Kerrigan, Marie LaFond, Mary Tighe, Peggy Burke, Sis McClure, Rene LaFay, Leonard Roberge, William Daley, William Hackett, Francis

Waterman, Richard Shanahan, Richard Lapene, Raymond Higgins, Francis Pelkey, Donald Parker, Tom Porter, Merrick Mangan, Francis Perry and Ray Vondette.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, January 10, 1889

Spooks in Nebraska

PEACEFUL CITIZENS EXCITED OVER THEIR NIGHTLY VISITS

Clad in earthly habiliments, the ghosts are given a wide berth as they noiselessly patrol the streets--no disposition to lawlessness manifested--a Herald man secures an evidence that it sometimes rains in spirit-land.

"Nebraska" is a highly-favored locality in Rutland, for, if half that is told by some of the most veracious residents be true, it may be that they have for some time been entertaining angels unawares.

Hundreds of people will pooh-pooh the statement that ghosts have invaded the twilight quiet of Nebraska's peaceful streets; but up to this writing it has been very difficult to find even half a dozen individuals brave enough to face the strange beings that have moved noiselessly up and down the boulevards of Nebraska after the curfew has rung the knell of parting day.

A *Herald* man, however, screwed his courage to the sticking point, armed himself with the stylographic pen that is mightier than the sword, and strode bravely down to fair Nebraska on the Otter, determined to wrestle with the mystery that has excited the residents of that quiet hamlet--and, if need be, even with the spooks themselves. He gave them every opportunity to cultivate his acquaintance; but they seemed to be so reserved--or so disinclined to associate with a humble knight of the quill--that he returned without having had even one sly peep at their majesties, the ghosts. His notebook, however, proved too small to contain all the weird stories poured into his eager ear by residents of that locality; and from them the following facts regarding their spookships are gleaned:

The invaders of the quite of peaceful Nebraska seem to number four; and their costume consists of a long and decidedly earthly black coat, covering the body from the neck to the feet, which is supplemented by a mask that partially conceals the spirit features. These, with a slouch hat complete the ethereal habiliments of the uncanny visitors to fair Nebraska's shades. The ghosts, it is said, have been seen repeatedly by denizens of that locality, and at such times have either been standing rapt in meditation or waltzing slowly. no robbery or damage to property has been reported; and the spirits are believed to be of the better kind; and they are useful in one respect, at least, for human beings of less worthy motives are said to give them the wider part of the road.

Considerable commotion is being caused among timid ladies on the streets named; but as the spectral visitors in human form so far have been unusually polite and the ladies do not encourage close acquaintance, no unpleasant events are looked for.

It is said that one lady who lives on Plain Street, while walking home, met two members of the visitors from the unknown land; but as she stayed not upon the order of her going, her

description of their looks is rather Meagre. Still another witness is a gentleman who resides on Granger Street. His story is that while standing in front of his house smoking at about 10 o'clock on Friday night, he saw two or three shadows stealing toward him. They were enveloped in a dark suit, with masks of the same color. He looked at them steadily (this is said to be the correct thing to do in such cases,) but as they did not dematerialize, he slid gracefully, but quickly, into the house.

That the spirits are inclined to exhibit earthly carelessness or absent-mindedness is shown by the finding of a mask in the gutter at the corner of Plain and Granger Streets. This article was seized eagerly by a *Herald* man as he was prowling around after some clue as to the identity of the spirits, and is now guarded jealously in the *Herald* office. It is made from the covering of an old umbrella, which may possibly indicate that the weather in the spirit world recently has been very much like that of Rutland. Two holes are cut near the center, about where the eyes would come where the cloth tied around the head. With this placed in the proper position, a man wearing the other parts of the spirit costume before described would make a very fair specimen of a Vermont "Ku Klux;" and the effect would probably strike terror to the soul of many persons, both of the braver and of the gentler sex. More than one victim has tried the effect; and their opinions coincide with this exactly.

Whatever the objects are which waltz and glide up and down those streets, attired in unconventional robes, it seems strange that they have not realized that, in view of the depth and adhesiveness of the mud, a pair of rubber boots might be added to their outfit with satisfactory results.

There are some prosaic individuals who feign to take no stock in the spooks, and say that after the boys who are having fun in this way become tired of their mid-night rambles, the ghosts will "fold their tents like the Arabs, and as silently steal away," and if they don't conclude to soon, some of Rutland's detective force may enfold them in a slightly different manner.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald and Globe, June 6, 1886

A Citizen's Letter To the Editor

I see by the papers that the village trustees, in view of the proposed "free delivery" system about to be put in operation by the post office department, propose to renumber the houses in the village. This is a subject of considerable importance, and the system to be adopted should be well considered before any change is made. Already we have had two systems, and now the matter should be placed upon a permanent basis, so that, whatever system is adopted, it can be indefinitely extended without interfering with the numbers then in use.

This can only be done by taking two through thoroughfares, one numbering north and south and the other east and west.

But, before selecting any street as the base for numbers, some attention should be given to the present names as applied to the streets of our village; for instance, no continuous street should bear two names, nor should there be two streets of the same name, as occurs in one or more instances.

In some cases the names of some of our streets, although perfectly proper and fitting at the time when they were applied to them, have become "in view of the great change that has taken place in the village by its wonderful growth" totally without significance as conveying to a stranger any idea of the location of the street or of its character; for instance, West Street was so called when it was the only street leading to the west in the village. Now a stranger would naturally infer that West Street must be the westerly street of the village; it has also two names, West and Terrill; it should have but one, and that one, in my opinion, should be "State Street," in view of the fact that the first State House, in which the first Legislature of Vermont convened, was erected and still remains standing near the head of the street. School and Union Streets are but one street; Madison and River the same. Strongs Avenue, Merchants Row and Grove Street are three names applied to one continuous street, and should have but one name; and this street with a new name should also be the base for the numbers running east and west; the new name of this street should be Main, in view of the fact that everybody takes it for granted that Main Street is always the principal business street of a town. Clarendon would also be suggestive, as the street leads south, directly to the good old town of Clarendon; and it might also be well applied to Main Street, if Main should be applied to the present trio downtown.

The present State Street and Spring Street are one and the same, and the name of County might well take the place of the two, as the buildings known as the "House of Correction," are as much county as State buildings. These are some of the reasons why great care should be taken and the subject well canvassed before any change is made that may, in a short period of time, be totally inadequate to the wants of the town, and effort should be made to so arrange matters that they will answer all reasonable demands of all future generations.

These suggestions are not made in any captious [finding fault] spirit or with any claim that they are the best, either in the selection of names or in any other respect, but simply to call the attention of our citizens to the subject, and in the hope that some better qualified to deal with the subject may be induced to ventilate their opinions through the press.

[Wouldn't it be a nice project for some school children to find out why some of the streets are named as they are and who the people were that they are named for?]

Tidbits from Then and Now

During the past couple of weeks people have been concerned with “fisher cats” roaming around city houses. Then came the bear that was shot on State Street, quite close (within a block) of downtown. Well, relax, these appearance are nothing new. Surprisingly, while browsing through the 1931 papers for some research information, I came across a couple of interesting articles.

Rutland Herald, Monday, March 9, 1931

OTTERS, SHYEST OF FURBEARERS, VISIT CITY'S OUTSKIRTS

Rutland is becoming popular with wild animals. A few days ago a bear woke up early from its winter snooze and explored the outskirts of the eastern part of town. Now it's a family of otters, usually the shyest creatures of the wilds, that saw fit to hobnob with alley cats and stray dogs.

Three of these aquatic furbearers, which are one of the rarest mammals in New England, meandered Saturday along Otter Creek, and then wallowed across the fields to another stream, south of the city where open water was to be found.

Otters long have been scarce in Vermont and the few that are taken by trappers who prize their pelts, usually are secured in the wilderness. That the animals should have approached civilization and as many as three were seen at one time is considered remarkable by outdoor enthusiasts.

The Vermont laws permit trapping of otters for a short period when their fur is at its best. The season closed February 15, the animals being protected until November 1.

Rutland Herald, Tuesday, March 10, 1931

Bunny Goes Sightseeing, Deserting Forest Haunts

A bear and a family of otters recently got into the news columns by forsaking the quiet of the forest and wandering to the suburbs of the city. Now it's a rabbit that has shown a longing for urban life.

United States Marshal A. W. Harvey related the following story: “I was sitting in a window of my office in the federal building this morning gazing out at the snowdrifts, when I was astonished to see a wild coney rabbit (cottontail) hopping along on Center Street sidewalk. Bunny was not permitted to explore the city in peace for long, however, for soon a group of boys spied him and he was obliged to seek safety by scurrying into a nearby yard where bushes gave him temporary protection.”

It will be remembered that until 1932 the federal offices occupied the building where the library is located today. More about this building to follow soon. [That's what I was researching when I found these tidbits.]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Excerpts from the Rutland Herald, March 11, 1931

Rutland people of 50 years ago took steps to provide a suitable memorial to the soldiers who fought for the union in the Civil War. In the years following the conflict, sentiment grew stronger and stronger in favor of the construction of a memorial hall. In 1883 at the annual meeting of the voters of the town of Rutland, which at that time included Rutland, West Rutland and part of what is now Proctor, there was adopted a resolution authorizing the procurement of the site and the erection of a new memorial hall.

The selectmen of the town were authorized to proceed with the acquisition of a building site and the planning and erection of the hall. A committee from the citizens to cooperate with the selectmen was appointed. It comprised Gen. Edward H. Ripley, United States Senator Redfield Proctor, Judge W. G. Veazey, Rev. Charles I. Boylan, pastor of St. Peter's Church, and William H. Woodward.

The sum of \$25,000 was voted by the town for the furtherance of the construction of the building. The selectmen did not feel that the sum necessary for securing the site should be withdrawn from that fund for it was believed that it would require further appropriation from the town to complete the proposed building, if this was done. It was decided to purchase the so called Holmes lot on the north side of West Street at an expense to the town, not exceeding \$4,500, which however, was insufficient to secure the property. Subscriptions were received from various individuals to make up the balance of the purchase price, which was \$8,500.

Many carloads of marble blocks, weighing two to seven tons each, were put into the foundation. The stone for the foundation and also for the superstructure was donated by various marble companies of this section. Work progressed on the building under the supervision of Milo Lyman. John C. Temple selected and inspected the marble.

To cover the cost of construction, the voters at a town meeting in 1883 approved a tax of 15 cents on the dollar of the grand list. In 1886 another tax of 10 cents on the dollar was voted and in 1887 there was a second 10-cent tax. The marble, donated by the various companies in this section, was worth at least \$25,000.

In the latter part of 1886, at the time of the division of the old town of Rutland and the setting off of West Rutland and Proctor, a question arose as to what should be done about the memorial hall property, which was not yet completed. It was finally decided that the property should remain in the ownership of the town of Rutland and the cost of completing the building should be borne by the three townships, proportionate to their grand lists.

When it was voted to build the memorial, the plans provided that a part of the hall should be set apart for use as a public library. In constructing the memorial, the selectmen of the town said: "We will build something that will in time become a great museum of relics, souvenirs and records of every sort and kind of the war for the Union--of priceless value to those who shall come after us." [by 1889, nearly all of the Civil War veterans and most of the officials and

artisans, who had to do with the conception and completion of the memorial had died. Roberts Post, G.A.R., did not make a long or continued use of the hall as a meeting place, renting in the nineties a hall on Merchants Row.

Meanwhile the formation of the Rutland Free Library association had been underway. In January 1886, the preliminary meeting was held. On February 20, 1886, the permanent organization was formed in Baxter Hall. [There was considerable controversy involving whether men would be admitted to the association. It was decided to limit membership to women only!]

On July 5 1886, the library was opened in the block at 23 Merchants Row. The transfer to the lower floor of the Memorial Hall was made in March, 1889. As the years went on Memorial Hall became mainly library headquarters. The relics, souvenirs and records were exhibited on the upper floor but there was no provision made to take care of them. On account of the construction, the upper floors were unsuitable for meeting places and few were held.

On November 16, 1925 Mayor James C. Dunn was authorized to take steps to exchange the Memorial building on West Street for the post office structure on Center Street. It was not until February 7, 1930 that the transfer of the property took place under Mayor Arthur W. Perkins, who had succeeded Mr. Dunn.

On March 6, 1931 the *Rutland Herald* reported that the task of demolishing the Memorial building on West Street, which formerly housed the Rutland Free Library, was almost complete. Practically all salvage materials were sold to Rutland persons. H.J. Calkins bought the marble blocks and salvage brick. He expected to construct a private home on Creek Road. Postmaster C. H. West said that it is expected that the government would soon announce the specifications for the new Federal building to be built on the site.[Today it is still the Federal building that we know as the Post office.]

The Rutland Free Library has occupied the former federal building since August 1935 and in 1965 a needed addition was built. Recently the library did some extensive, interior renovations. As for the Memorial Hall remains, take a ride south on "Creek Road" and you will find two of the marble "posts" that stood at the foot of the steps and were rescued from the west bank of Otter Creek. [probably were to be used for the entrance to the Rutland airport of which Mr. H. J. Calkins was part owner]. Mr. Calkins intended to build a home as well as an office structure near the hanger at the airport [located on Creek Road at that time] with the marble blocks from Memorial Hall. The two stained glass GAR Memorial windows are in the possession of the Rutland Historical Society and have been releaded and cleaned. The artifacts that were displayed in Memorial Hall were temporarily distributed to private homes. Several years ago they were sent to Bennington to be placed in a museum.[The Bennington Museum--today displays some of the artifacts from the Ripley families, among other GAR artifacts.]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, November 28, 1932

Pupils in Rutland Schools Taught To Appreciate Music

Rutland public schools are striving to bring out an appreciation of music in all children from the lower grades through high school. Teachers state that through the medium of selected phonograph records, marching, singing, folk dancing, school orchestras, choruses and radios the natural response of the children to rhythm and music is progressively encouraged during their school life

Miss Mary E. Cannon, principal of Park Street School, said regarding musical education: "Through the teaching of music in the public schools many lives are being made fuller and happier because of the sense of music thus encouraged. What would this world be without music? There are few who are not susceptible to music in one way or another. The response of children to their inborn sense of rhythm is often evidenced by their clapping of hands, the beat of drums, the sing-song little tunes they chant while playing their games.

"Music is one of the best known media for establishing peace of mind.... We all know the large part music plays in the churches administering to our spiritual needs. It was largely through the music of the Army and Navy bands that the morale of our soldiers and sailors was kept up during the World War [WWI].

"Parents ask themselves, 'Are our children musical?' Perhaps they have, latent in their being, that divine spark of talent which needs only be exposed to encourage it to blossom forth. The musical advantages of our public schools today provide ample opportunity for the development of musical talent."

Why did I pick this particular article for Thanksgiving? Well, the Park Street school building is no longer used as a school where it provided a caring atmosphere for children. [It closed shortly after I taught music there!--not that this makes me paranoid or anything.] Today it is known as "The Mission" and provides a caring atmosphere to help people who need some support to carry on their everyday lives---isn't that what Thanksgiving is all about? Happy Thanksgiving.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald March 15, 1931

COURT BURLESQUE AMUSES ROTARIANS

Mock Trial of Breach of Promise Suit Big Hit on "Ladies' Night."

The breach of promise suit tried before Judge Heis Onesided at the "Ladies' Night" entertainment of Rutland Rotary club at the Trinity Parish House developed into a case of side-splitting comedy as each witness, sworn to tell "nothing but the holes of the truth," complicated the evidence to such an extent that the jury was able only to return a verdict of misunderstanding.

The courtroom scene was very realistic and costumes, as seen in the tribunals of several generations ago, added much to the effect of the production which was prepared and staged under the direction of Cola J. Cleveland. He was assisted, according to the printed programs, by "the improper-ty man," Edward A. Chalmers.

As listed by the Nutland Bounty Court docket, the case was a heart balm suit brought by Peggy Penelope Parmelee Joyce, taken by Fred S. Chaffee, against Wallace Klutchem Half-Dime, who was Wallace W. Nichols. City Judge Harold I. O'Brien presided in the role of Judge Heis Onesided. William S. Tuttle as U. Gettum, and Bert L. Stafford as I. Skinnem appeared as counsel for the plaintiff. Joseph C. Jones as H. R. Bunkum and Stephen C. Dorsey in the role of I. M. Hokum conducted the defense.

Witnesses included John J. Dolan as the plaintiff's daughter, Winsome Winnie Parmelee; John B. Stearns as the plaintiff's son, Reginald Percival Joyce; Oliver D. Ward as Philo Vance Plumber, a "defective"; Dr. H. K. Sherburne, jr., as Dr. Punchem Poundem Kneedum; Dr. Edward J. Rogers as Dr. Rascob Spitzer; Burt Powell as Uncle Abe Duco and Dr. G. R. Martin as Dr. Bull Durham Darkhorse. George N. Harman, as clerk of the court, M. Tees Pockets, swore all witnesses to tell nothing but the holes in the truth. Almo B. Franzoni, alias Murt Burphy, was sheriff and court officer while Maurice E. Walbridge in the colored role of George Washington Snowball, acted as court janitor.

The jury which exhibited more than ordinary intelligence was composed of H.H. Wolk as Nora Bridget Wolk, E. M. Lyons as Mrs. Jungle Lyons, Dr. R.H. Seeley as Tonsillitis Bronchitis Seeley, W.E. Burditt as Fifi Burditt, J. C. Dunn as Well Done Dunn, W. H. Williams as Willy Puick Williams, Isaac Miller as Ima Moth Miller and R. D. Barker as Ray Bell Taxi Barker.

Cross examination by Attorney Bunkum (J. C. Jones) did much to increase the merriment while the appearance of J. B. Stearns in a Lord Fauntleroy rig was the cause of many side-aches. Burt Powell's portrayal of Uncle Abe Duco, skunk farm operator and hick supreme, who was quite deaf, put a big punch in the trial, while O. D. Ward as Philo Vance Plumber revealed information under cross examination which might have been taken from a "Now You Ask Me One," book or "Boners, by One Who Has Pulled Them."

Judge O'Brien alias Judge Onesided, followed the suit of other members of the cast who threw off for the time being the dignity of their professions, for Judge Onesided's court procedure would hardly be given a standing in any other tribunal.

[Not too far off from the "real court cases" you see on television today! But, it must have been nice to be able to take a break from the formality of the real court and be able to create such a parody.]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald February 24, 1931

Sees Spud Growing As Boon To State

Rutland Man Believes Big Possibilities Exist in Land Now Lying Idle

Millions of new dollars coming into the state, employment for thousands in fields and factories, and a method of keeping Vermonters in Vermont are the benefits promised by a Rutland man who advocates that the waste and idle land in the rich valleys of the state, once used for hay, be turned into great potato producing areas.

The effects of such a movement are sketched as being far reaching. Among them are better potatoes at better prices in local markets; employment in the fields and storehouses; an entirely new industry in the form of starch factories which spring up in all large potato producing sections of the country; more trucking and railroad business and better roads because of the need of good highways to railroad shipping points.

Vermont has several natural advantages for potato raising, it is pointed out. Nearness to consuming centers, Boston, New York, Philadelphia and other coast cities, is cited as a paramount factor. Adaptability of the soil for the growth of this type of vegetable, also for the ease of cultivating, adds much to its value for this use. High grade seed potatoes for export to southern countries would consume a considerable portion of the total crop, since only northern grown potatoes can be used for seed for southern plantings.

With modern machinery, once the crop is harvested and has left the farm, the farmer's work is done for the season except for preparing the land for the following season. Oat crops are used in rotation with the potato plantings, for the full use of the fertilizers.

The University of Maine played a large part in the increase of potato planting and success in that state. The University of Vermont stands ready to help expand potato planting in Vermont as does the United States Department of Agriculture. Maine expects to harvest nearly 5,000,000 bushels of tubers by next fall. That is nearly double Vermont's entire crop. The result is that Maine potatoes invade the Vermont cities and potential markets like Troy, Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse and New York City, while Vermont, which is nearer is cut off, because of insufficient production.

When the potato industry is developed to a greater extent in fertile valleys and fields of this state, a condition of prosperity greater than ever experienced with dairying is expected. Production costs of dairy products are so much higher in relation to returns than in the potato industry that the margin of profit is many times greater than in the dairy industry.

[The name of the Rutland man who suggested this possibility is not given. Sounds like Vermont might have missed out on a good suggestion to rebuild the economy during a major depression!]

Tidbits from Then and Now

The giving season is once again upon us. The Rutland Historical Society is the perfect place to find a gift that goes beyond the token gift of food or clothing. It has many gifts that keep giving and convey a feeling of fond memories. So often there are family members and friends that may be living away from their "Hometown" of Rutland that could enjoy the return of those memories.

There are Quarterlies on various subjects concerning the Rutland area's history. Back issues are \$1 each. The newest Quarterly is, *Lost Buildings of Old Rutland: A Calendar*. This includes a picture of the old swimming pool that was on North Main Street. (\$2). There is a 464 page book on *Early Families of Rutland* focusing on families from the old Town of Rutland prior to the Civil War (\$30) and *The History of Rutland, Vermont 1761-1861*, a 690 page book researched and written by Dawn D. Hance (\$30). In addition there are: *Rutland Town: A Collection of Stories Spanning Over 200 Years of Town History* (\$5); *Proctor: My Home Town* by Herbert W. Johnson, Sr. (\$10); *Thus Far By Faith: A History of Grace Congregational United Church of Christ, 1788-1988* (\$6); *Home: A History of St. Peter's Parish, Rutland Vermont* by Patrick T. Hannon & edited by Jim and Helen Davidson (\$10). The postage for any number of Quarterlies sent to one address is \$1.00 and the postage for a book is \$3.00.

The Society has also produced fifty thirty-minute video programs in its "Historically Speaking" series. One or two of these would make a great gift for someone who did not have an opportunity to see them on Channel 15. They can be obtained from Channel 15, Rutland Region Community Television, P.O. Box 500, Rutland VT 10702-0500. They are \$10 for each episode. You must provide a self-addressed padded bag with postage. Personal pickup is available. Channel 15 provides the tape. Call (802) 747-0151 for further information.

A gift of a whole year's worth of Quarterlies and Newsletters can be obtained through a gift membership. Memberships are as little as eight dollars for a senior citizen (age 62 and over) or a student (18 and under). A regular membership/subscription is ten dollars. A membership/subscription provides four Quarterlies and four Newsletters from January to December.

A list of back issues of Quarterlies and a list and synopsis of "Historically Speaking" video programs is available for one dollar to cover cost of copies and postage. The Rutland Historical Society is open on Monday evenings from 6-9 pm and Saturdays from 1-4 pm. The Society is located in the old Nickwackett Firehouse at 96 Center Street. You are welcome to come and check out these gift options at the Society. Remember, a gift that lasts and brings back memories is a gift from the heart.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Last week was Hanukkah and this week brings Christmas. This is the time of the year that we celebrate the holiday season. It is generally a happy time of year for all, but mostly the children. They say history repeats itself and we are supposed to learn from that. Have we? In December of 1943 [Sixty years ago] this state was in the same position as it is today. Note the following excerpts from the Rutland Herald of December 31, 1943:

Flu Raises Death Rate

171 Lives for Every 10,000 in Country Taken During Christmas Week.

The fourth consecutive week of a sharply mounting death rate claimed an average of 171 lives for every 10,000 persons in the country during Christmas week. The census bureau reported the figures --52 more deaths than normal for each 10,000 population. All sections of the country reported increases in the number of influenza cases during Christmas week, although 11 of 44 reporting states showed the malady ebbing. The increasing death rate likewise has been nation-wide although New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania were hardest hit. Mortalities in that sector were 68 percent above the 1940-42 three-year average. One week of the 1918 epidemic had a death rate 380 percent above normal.

Today we are again facing the "flu" throughout the whole country, even though we have a vaccine to ward off such epidemics.

That is not the only comparison to December of 1943. The country was at war, had been since December of 1941. Rutland's Roll of Honor for the year 1943 included: 18 killed or dead in service of their country. Many medals, promotions and awards took place for the people who had given a part of their lives to help their country. Today many of our service people are away from their families during this holiday season. Some will not return, others will return healthy and others not.

During this holiday season let's all remember the sacrifice that many families are making. Let the children enjoy the giving and joyous celebrations but keep in your hearts the other families whose season is not so joyous and please, keep the beautiful dove of peace circling closer to our nation.

Tidbits from Then and Now

1943 highlights from the Rutland Herald dated 1/1/44

Rutland Takes Over its New Big Airport in Clarendon

Great American Industries, Inc., Taking Over Columbian Ave. Plant, Largest of New Businesses

The page of 1943 now closing in Rutland's history book records a busy year which saw plenty of diligent coordinated action and little waste of words in pointless oratory on the part of men and women working for the city's progress.

In a year when every man, woman and child was doing his best toward the war effort and to maintaining the home front as all felt their fighting men expected of them, Rutland came into possession of MacArthur airfield, the big airport in Clarendon, and brought new industries to the city, the largest of which was the Great American Industries, Inc, of Meriden, Conn., which took over the Colonial Marble Company plant on Columbian Avenue, for the manufacture of airplane ignition parts.

Rutland acquired the airport upon completion of its construction which was begun on May 30, 1942, and built by the federal government, who had originally intended it for military use at a cost of three-quarters of a million dollars. To this amount the city and state added about \$35,000. Mayor Wayne N. Temple named as first airport commissioners, Gerald E. McLaughlin, George C. Cobb and Carlton O. Wilson to whom control of the airport was given under a provision of the newly revised city charter.

The taxpayers of the city at a special election authorized the expenditure of \$60,000 for the construction of a hangar and other improvements when found advisable to the commission.

At the same election the groundwork was laid to induce new industries to locate in Rutland when the voters exempted from taxation for a period of 10 years, the Colonial Marble Company plant on Columbian Avenue which had been purchased at a tax sale by George Lumbra of Burlington, and the Spaulding plant on Cleveland Avenue, with the provision that at least 75 persons be employed at each place. The end of the year saw the Great American Industries renovating the Colonial plant for immediate use, after they bought it from Lumbra, and the Rosenblatt Dress manufacturing concern located in the Spaulding building. Tampax, Inc., manufacturers of sanitary and medical supplies, began business in The Odd Fellows' building on Court Square, hiring about 60 people.

Two air meets were held at the airport during the year, and in November the Rutland Chamber of Commerce received notice that Colonial Airlines, Inc., had already filed a petition with the Civil Aeronautics Board in Washington to make the city of Rutland a stopping point on a proposed New York to Montreal route.

They were as busy in 1943 as they are now in 2003, working to get new businesses to come to the city. And, how many knew that the Rutland airport was originally called MacArthur airport?

Tidbits from Then and Now

Excerpts from Rutland Historical Society Quarterly, Vol XV #4, 1985

In 1903 Orville Wright made the first officially recognized flight in history over the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

Rutland had its own pilot, George J. Schmitt, Jr., who was born in New York City on February 8, 1892. He was the son of George J. Schmitt, Sr. a German emigrant who settled in Rutland, where he owned and operated the Marble City Bakery. George, Jr. attended Rutland High School and in the spring of 1910 he went to New York City to study electrical work at a trade school, but the urge to fly would dominate his life.

George had a brother, Charles, who was three years younger. Charles helped George with his self-taught aeronautical projects. They constructed a successful glider in 1909, which gave George a greater feeling for aerodynamics and a future in the field of aviation. Numerous flights were made with this hang-type glider from a bluff in Buffum's Meadow [located in the southeast part of the city].

In 1910, with the help of brother Charles, George tried-out a later glider at the Rutland Fairgrounds. The Rutland Herald reported the event on August 29, 1910. "The glider belonging to George and Charles Schmitt of Royce St. was given its second tryout at the fairgrounds at 12:30 o'clock before a large crowd. The skids, used in place of wheels, increased efficiency so much that when attached to an automobile by ropes and towed around the track it rose to a height of 20 feet and maintained this height for nearly 100 yards."

The committees for the larger fairs began to think about flights from the race track or the infield in front of the grandstand. Consequently, thousands of Vermonters in the earlier years of the 20th century had an opportunity to see their first airplane flight earlier than many who lived in similar communities in other parts of the country.

With financial assistance from his family and several businessmen in Rutland, George purchased a Curtiss biplane from C. and A. Whittemann on Staten Island. He planned to fly the plane that year at the Rutland Fair in September. In those days the small, frail crafts of the period were seldom flown cross-country and never for long distances, except for prize money. Instead, they were designed for quick, easy assembly. The principal components were packed in special boxes and went in a baggage car on the train in which the aviator traveled. George's plan to fly the plane for the Rutland Fair in 1910 was a disappointment as an engine problem could not be solved. George finally got his plane off the ground on the third morning of the fair. On what was known as Green's Field in Rutland, a few rods south of the fairgrounds [where the Travelodge is now located] George's plane made several hops, which could hardly be regarded as flights and he was never seen from the fairgrounds. His goal to make the first official flight, ever, in the state of Vermont was not achieved.

George Schmitt had promised to include the State Fair in his hometown during the barnstorming season of 1912. He had gone to Rocky Hill, New Jersey, near Princeton, in the spring of 1912 to

build a new, better airplane. It was a headless Red Devil-type biplane. Charles Schmitt sent Vermont wood for struts and other parts from Rutland. To cover the wings and control surfaces, George used rubberized red cloth which had been developed by Captain Thomas Baldwin and its use led to the name "Red Devil" by which Baldwin planes were known. On September 2nd, the Red Devil biplane started off a week that was packed with thrills for fairgoers. On September 6 George was given a gold watch by admiring friends. After completion of his engagement at Rutland Fair, Schmitt appeared at many Vermont fairs and on November 2, 1912 he sailed to San Juan, Puerto Rico, taking a Baldwin Red Devil biplane. This tour was a great success and George became the first aviator to fly from the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific. This was accomplished by flying across the Isthmus of Panama.

George agreed to return to the Rutland Fair in 1913. On his first day of flying on September first, he made 13 flights, covering a distance of approximately 130 miles. On some flights he carried passengers. They included Joseph Eaton, Wilfred Frenier, and his own father, George Schmitt, Sr. George resumed flying on September 2nd, when he again carried passengers. Following his trip with mail to the Rutland Post Office, George continued to make flights and to carry passengers for the remainder of the day. Sixty people were waiting in line for a ride. Shortly after 6:00 p.m. the plane soared from Green's Field, south of the grounds, with Attorney J. Dyer Spellman of Rutland as the passenger. At an altitude of about 500 feet and in plain view of the grandstand, the plane was seen to wobble, then one wing dropped sharply. Plainly out of control, it plunged toward the ground and crashed in a nearby field. The time was 6:05 p.m. George was crushed by the engine when it broke loose from its mounting. He was rushed to the Rutland Hospital in Dr. W.W. Townsend's car. He died four hours later at 10:02 p.m. Spellman, who was 22 years old, was badly shaken but sustained no broken bones. He recovered.

George Schmitt lived but a brief 21 years. Despite his youth and brief career, he remains a meaningful and distinctive part of the dramatic history of aviation and the courageous group of pilots who flew those early fragile planes.

The Oread, published monthly during the school years by the students of Rutland High School, contained *The Diary of Mr. A. V. Ator* in many of their issues. The following excerpt shows that George Schmitt also had a sense of humor.

"September 5, 1910. I have been figuring my financial part of this game. I made one flight at the Rutland fair, which bought me about \$500. I will make six flights at the Brattleboro Valley Fair next week, which will be about \$2,000, and several flights at Burlington which will bring about \$3,000; total \$5,500. The aeroplane only cost me \$4,000. If my gains keep coming in this way, I will be a millionaire in a month. September 9. Have arrived at Brattleboro. I am going to fly at the fair tomorrow.

September 10. I have a sunny little room at the south end of the hospital. The only comfort I have is that the doctor promises to fix me up in short order. I wonder what happened?

September 13. I went down to the fair grounds today and saw the remains of my new aero-plane. In fact, that was all there was to see--just remains.

September 14. I am back in Rutland again. My brother told me today that he thought I did not know how to fly, and should go down to Mineola to learn the art before taking another contract. I am beginning to think so too. Guess I will go down this spring and "learn to fly."

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, February 28, 1931

Fifty-six Ton Stone Crosses Continent

Marble Block, Cut for Tomb of Unknown Soldier, at W. Rutland

The gigantic block of white marble, which is to complete the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery, has just been shipped east from the Vermont Marble Company's Colorado quarries. It is now at the company's West Rutland plant. From there it will go to the Proctor shops for finishing. In the rough it weighs about 56 tons, and the work of getting it out of the ground and into the mills and shops called for special equipment and unusual care in handling.

It was necessary to consider the question of size, as well as texture and sculptural quality in selecting this material, company officials state. Comparatively few quarries can produce marble blocks of such unusual dimensions.

The deposit at Marble, Colorado, is probably the highest in the world, being 10,000 feet above sea level. The opening is on the mountain side far above the railway siding and the marble had to be lowered by means of cable and skidway. It was then loaded on the car and started on its cross-country run. When it leaves the Vermont shops, this mammoth sarcophagus will be shipped to Washington, where additional carved work will be done by Piccirilli Brothers, under the direction of the sculptor.

It was in 1921 that the Unknown Soldier was brought to rest in Arlington Cemetery. Later, after the government had provided a fund for the purpose, the designers of the country were asked to submit in competition their plans for a memorial. Among the 73 designs thus obtained, the sarcophagus, which is now being built, won the place of honor. The end of the monument which faces the road and looks out across the Potomac toward the national capital, will have sculptured figures raised in bold relief, representing Victory, Peace and American Manhood.

March 3, 1931

New Marble Shop Begins Operation

Center Rutland Plant is Equipped With Most Modern of Machinery

The modern finishing shop of the Vermont Marble Company, which has been under construction since last August at Center Rutland, has taken its place as a producing unit. Not all the machinery has been installed as yet, but the sections which are complete have begun turning out marble. The first actual finishing was done yesterday.

In addition to the various overhead cranes for the handling of marble, the shop is equipped with rubbing beds, polishing machines, planers, carborundum machines, lathes, and the other standard

appliances which go into the making of a modern plant. Railway sidings are so arranged that the rough marble can enter at one end of the building and the crated finished work be shipped away at the other. When in full operation, it is believed that this shop will have about 150 men on its payroll.

It is expected that much of the interior marble for the West Virginia state capitol will be finished in this new shop. Considerable work on this contract has already been done, but it is an exceptionally large order and will be in the process of fabrication for some time. The entire plant has been built during a time of business depression.

Here then, it is gone now, like many of the businesses that marked the Rutland area's place in history.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, October 13, 1892

The H.H. Baxter Memorial Library will soon be opened. The building with its square tower and artistic proportions has become a familiar sight in Rutland since it was put up three years ago, and it must be said that, beautiful as the structure is, it makes no more than a fitting house for the treasures it contains. The building ranks with those of the Norman Williams Library at Woodstock and the Billings Library at Burlington, among the finest of its class to be found anywhere.

The library, as is well known, was established by the widow and son of the late Gen. H.H. Baxter of this town--Mary E. Baxter and Hugh H. Baxter-- "as a perpetual memorial of a man who was a loving husband, a kind parent and a true and loyal gentleman." The building is from designs by Brunner & Tyron of New York, and is made of gray marble from West Rutland, rock-faced throughout except parts of the cornice and work about the door, which are carved. The stone, treated in this way, is attractive to the eye and is in harmony with the design and with the purpose of the building. The building stands with its end to Grove Street. The entrance is through a portico at the northeast corner, directly into a hall at the base of a square tower which rises above the roof on the north side of the building and specially distinguishes it in appearance. To the right of this upon entering, is a large reading room, with other rooms of similar character toward both front and rear, the three running the length of the main building. The two end rooms are arranged to contain books--the front room containing larger volumes of illustrations and the like and the back room containing dictionaries and other volumes. The back room also has a handsome fireplace. The whole interior of the building is finished in quartered oak, with furniture of the same material. The furniture is richly carved, as is the mantelpiece in the back room. North of the central reading room is the librarian's room, as well as some storage rooms. A semi-circular wing on the south side of the building contains the bulk of the books in nine alcoves.

The library was intended for about 20,000 volumes. There are something like 12,000 presently on the shelves. Mrs. Baxter and her son obtained the services of Walter H. Pomeroy of New York City to gather the books for the library. Mr. Pomeroy died in Rutland in the spring of 1891. He lived to complete the gathering of the books and to nearly finish the catalogue of them which as since been printed. [A copy of this catalogue is in the Rutland Historical Society library].

Through all the years from 1886 to 1891, Mr. Pomeroy searched catalogues, ransacked shops and haunted sales, in both America and Europe, to make the collection. Mrs. Pomeroy, herself a book lover, worked with him through the selection and is now the librarian. The fine quality of the books will of course compel strict conditions as to their use by the public. A binding which cost \$100 is easily ruined by careless hands, and it would be a thousand pities to have the bibliographical gems in this collection spoiled from thoughtlessness. There are on the shelves dozens of volumes such as great public libraries keep under glass and never trust out from under the hands of their own officers.

The art department includes volumes of engravings of famous pictures too numerous for mention, including the works of Raphael, Michael Angelo, Rubens, Rembrandt, Van Dyck, Turner and Landseer, and many other things of the kind. The selection is intended to make the representation of the best work as complete as possible. The books especially relating to America are largely biographical.

The first alcove is filled with miscellaneous books, or those which for one reason or another are not yet classified. Among these are books printed in the years 1483 through 1815. They are all from the Syston Park collection and some bear plates showing other famous ownerships in years past. The second alcove is given to travels and Shakespeareana, with copies of many famous and familiar books, including Sir John Franklin's narrative of his first arctic expedition in a fine copy of the first edition published at London in 1779. The third alcove is given to scientific books and Bibles and biblical and church literature. The works are mostly of the familiar sort, intended for use by other than strictly scientific scholars with many commentaries and books for the biblical student. The fourth alcove is filled wholly with poetry. The selection is made to include chiefly standard works which are also bibliographical gems, with a considerable number of volumes of excellence less known. The fifth alcove is devoted to literature. The general selection here was the same as in the poetry alcove. They are all perfectly and finely bound. The sixth alcove is mostly given to history. and the seventh alcove is filled with folklore and fiction. It covers East Indian, Arabian, Greek, Russian, Tibetan, Spanish, Basque and many other fields of folk lore as well as English, Scotch and Irish. The eighth alcove is filled with biography and books relating to drama, including a collection of French plays. The ninth alcove is devoted to biography and works on art which includes a large number of books of engravings from galleries and collections, with handbooks on artistic matters, works on pottery, etc.

Most of the books have the name neatly stamped in gold on the back, "H.H. Baxter Memorial Library," either directly on the binding or on a label. The more precious volumes are, however, left without marking at all.

One can only wonder where all these rare books could have gone when the Baxter Memorial Library ceased to be.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, September 9, 1897

The lease of the Morse property on South Main Street, held by the English and Classical Institute, expires on January 1, and the owner, E.A Morse, has notified Professor Perry that he intends to take possession of the property. This is in accordance with the plans entertained by Captain Morse for some time. He proposes to make extensive alterations in this fine old bit of early architecture, and to furnish and equip it for a residence for himself. His son, E.R. Morse, and family will reside with him.

The house, now occupied by the institute, was built in 1800 by Judge Chipman. Judge James Barrett rented the place for several years beginning in 1820. Judge Strong finally bought the property, and the house remained in the Strong family until 1879, when it was bought by E.A. Morse, who settled in Rutland in 1850.

The Morse house which is soon to be renovated is one of the very best specimens of domestic architecture that followed the pioneer days of Vermont. The rooms are high and the framework contains beams that would do credit to a merchant vessel. There are seven great fireplaces, one of them flanked by an oven, the two occupying nearly one side of a room.

A feature in the changes, according to the plans that have been drawn for Mr. Morse, is a large portico and piazza 12 feet deep with four Ionic columns surmounted by a dormer roof and pediment, giving opportunity for some fine decorations. The piazza will run the full length of the house and along each side for some distance. The inside plan will be somewhat modified, but nothing will be done to lose the spacious and convenient groupings of rooms nor to destroy the colonial character of its architecture.

On December 30, 1897 The *Rutland Herald* reported the death of Capt. E.A. Morse who died of pneumonia. He was about to take possession of the Morse residence on Main Street, and had about completed plans for remodeling this fine old colonial mansion for a home for himself.

The lease for the Rutland English and Classical Institute had run out on January 1, 1898 and the Institute had moved to a brick building at 16 North Main Street [present site of Grand Union], adding Business College to the name. O. H. Perry, president of the institute, established a building fund to be completed by September 1, 1898. Later the Institute became the Rutland Business College and occupied an upper floor in the Ross, Huntress building on the corner of West Street and Merchants Row.

The information available at the Rutland Historical Society regarding the Rutland English and Classical Institute is certainly deserving of a Quarterly [Society magazine] at some point in the near future.

Tidbits from Then and Now

The days and nights seem to be unkindly cold this January. Seems that the temperature is having difficulty rising very far from zero degrees! Unusual you say? Guess again. You all know how history seems to repeat itself. Well, I guess mother nature likes to repeat things so we won't forget who's in control!

First there were the spring and summer of 1816 that were remarkably cold. More than just cold, it was a disastrous crop year in Vermont. An article by Michael J. Badamo, called 'Eighteen Hundred and Froze To Death', detailed the story of this disaster.

In the late nineteenth century, Abby Hemingway reported in her Historical Gazetteer, that 1816 was a time "memorable of extraordinary privations and sufferings." There were frosts on the land in every month of the year. "Not a single crop came to maturity." The death blow came on June 9, when a frost of almost unprecedented severity occurred, followed by a fall of snow, which covered the earth to a depth of nearly a foot, and was blown into drifts two or three feet deep. Frost came again in July, followed by frost in August. "No hope or possibility of a harvest remained, and the people had before them the gloomy prospect of extreme scarcity if not actual famine." Some of the root crops survived.

In the twentieth century there was the winter of 1975-76. An article by Petra Langer told of this particular winter being remembered by many Vermonters as one of the coldest and fiercest of recent times. But again, the reason many Vermonters were complaining about this winter was because they hadn't experienced a really cold one for several years and had forgotten what it was like. Although temperatures around the state frequently crashed to 20 degrees below zero several times during January, no weather compared to the record low of 50 degrees below zero recorded on December 30, 1933.

According to the trusty Farmer's Almanac of 1975-76, scientists were working to improve the 184-year old formula for predicting the weather. Many scientists believed that the ozone layer of the atmosphere was being destroyed by pollution, although they had not noticed any real change in the weather pattern that might arise from that situation. The Farmer's Almanac, for all its faults, will always be highly regarded.

Fast forward close to thirty years. Temperatures registered well below zero degrees and seldom went much higher than that during the month of January 2004. "We've never seen it so cold!" was a common cry. [Really?] My only question is: What's all that talk about GLOBAL WARMING?!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Whipple Hollow School

School picture 1931

1st row - left to right: William Ballard - John Potowniak - Charles McDevitt - David Gilligan - Robert Ballard - Henry Carlson - Clifford Senecal.

2nd row - left to right: Gert Gazine - Jennie Potowniak - Margaret McDevitt - Mary Gilligan - Stella Potowniak - Helen Hurlbert - Arnold Lewis - Ned Gilligan - Anna Mae Harrison.

3rd row - left to right: Cecil Osciowski - Jennie Geryk - Audrey Senecal - Camille Gazine - Jennie Osciowski - Margaret Ballard.

School picture 1933

1st row - left to right: Bob Harrison - Tony Gazine - Tom Gilligan - Merrill Bruce - Harry Gray - Vincent Razanouski - Francis Harrison - Bobby Gray - _____ Conti - _____ Conti.

2nd row - left to right: Freddie Gray - Ned Gilligan - Arthur Hurlbert - Julia Potowniak - Ann Mae Harrison - Marion Gokey - Stella Geryk - Frances Gazine - Hellen Razanouski - Stella Potowniak - Mary Harrison - Therese Harrison.

3rd row - left to right: Harry Gray - Emery Gokey - Jennie Geryk - Jennie Potowniak - Gert Gazine - Helen Hurlbert - Henry Carlson - Felex Geryk - Clifford Senecal - Mary Gilligan.

Back row - left to right: Teacher, Elizabeth McLaughlin - Paul Clifford - John Potowniak - Frank Kurant.

Do these pictures bring back fond memories of the Whipple Hollow School and school mates? The Rutland Historical Society is fortunate to have been given these photos and are interested in hearing former student's memories that can be preserved with them. These are the only pictures that the Rutland Historical Society has of the Whipple Hollow School, thanks to Mary Gilligan Lundrigan.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland County Independent, August 4, 1866

HOW TO LIVE

Sometimes we want to be a minister, or an author, or a public lecturer, or one of those privileged people who go around laying down the law to people and telling them what to do and what they are to leave undone! Occasionally, "unaccustomed as we are to public speaking," the spirit moves us very strongly to express our mental perturbation on more subjects than one!

Now suppose, or as the little ones say "make believe," we were a minister, a week-day sort of a minister, we mean, to preach on topics of every day interest, this is the text we should select today--a text not from the Bible, but from the lips of half the people you meet. Stop, sir, and listen--you know it was on your own tongue not half an hour ago, in the injured whine of a man who fancies the world is treating him very badly!

"IT COSTS SO MUCH TO LIVE!"

That's all nonsense, and you know it is! Life isn't to blame, it's you! Just let us look at your dress--expensive broadcloth lined with silk--gold watch-chain swinging like a cable rope across your chest--hat modeled after the last Broadway style[they did it even then!!--kid gloves and handkerchief soaked in perfume. We should think it might cost you something to live if it is necessary to pass your life inside such a costly envelope [clothing] as all that! If it was necessary to fashion to wear gold, you would go and get yourself gilded [today's tattoos!], we've no doubt, and then complain at the iron pressure of hard times! Other fools run after the fashion, and so must you! Give us, however, the hard handed hero who believes in being behind the fashion and beforehand with the world. Do you smile at the word? A man can be a hero about his coat and hat as well as at the battle-front; there are more kinds of courage than one!

"Costs so much to live," does it. You entertained your friend last night with lobster salad, champagne, and pink pyramids of cream, and the confectioner's bill is enough to give you a cramp in the face worse than any ague [fever or chills]! Now, don't you think they would have been quite as well satisfied if you had asked them, half a dozen at a time, to a quiet evening with iced water for refreshments and a plate of crackers on the sideboard! Look at your daily table. Jones can't afford partridges and quails and black coffee and expensive sauces--but Jones don't find it half as hard to live as you do, and never has the dyspepsia [indigestion] either! Put back that cigar [cigarette] into your pocket, you don't need it; half a dozen a day, at twenty cents each count up; throw it into the gutter and make up your mind to let it alone! Are you thirsty? Don't go into yonder saloon, but drink a glass of water--it will be better for both nose and purse! [think of the prices of beer, wine etc. today]. Jones walks down Broadway while you dash past him in an omnibus; Jones' coat looks a little seedy, while your garments are immaculate; but nevertheless, Jones will be a rich man before you will. You see it don't cost him so much to live as it does you. His wife is contented in a neat delaine[style of dress?], while yours *must* have a new silk;" his wife mends the old carpet and skillfully disposes rugs here and there to hide the worn places, while yours orders a new velvet at seven dollars a yard. "We can't possibly get

along without it, my dear.” His wife is not above going down into the kitchen to concoct little desserts and look after the remains of cold joints and chicken pies, while your helpmate would think it dreadful to rustle her skirts over the underground threshold. “It looks so mean.” And one day you come home with wide open eyes and mouth and inform your wife that Jones has bought a country place on the Hudson! How could he ever have afforded with his salary?”

It puts us clear beyond the bounds of patience when we hear people grumbling that “they cannot live.” You dear, stupid, confused souls, you could live upon one quarter of the money you foolishly throw away! The trouble with you is that all your life long you have had too much money--you have bought things you couldn’t afford, and didn’t want. Just begin the world over again on a new footing. Ask yourself honestly, “Do I need this thing?” [real good question!] before you pull out your pocketbook. Don’t buy a gimmick just because your neighbor has got one just like it; and don’t cut your fustian [kind of cloth] jacket after the pattern of your millionaire employer’s velvet coat! Remember the “rainy day” that comes sooner or later to everyone, and lay aside all your surplus funds to meet its exigencies[urgent needs], and you will not only be a richer, but a better man. There is nothing on earth that tries the temper like “living from hand to mouth.” [or ruins many marriages!] A man that has a hundred dollars in the savings bank respects himself and walks the earth with a freer footstep than the poor slave of debt. As for your neighbor’s opinion, it is a free country, and he is quite welcome to it. Further than that, it ought to be a matter of entire indifference to you.

It costs a great deal more to live like a fool than to live like a sensible man, and it is not half so satisfactory in the long run. Try it and see, and if you still remain unconvinced, we will never ask you to repose any more faith in our weekday sermons or weekday texts!

One Hundred and Thirty six years ago and it could almost have been written in 2004 judging from the bankruptcies and loaded credit card debt so many families are experiencing today.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, December 13, 1952

Telephone and Power Lines Snapped by Weight of Fall; 4000 Phones Reported Out in State

A heavy wet snow blanketed most sections of Vermont yesterday [Thursday], disrupting telephone and electric light service in the manner of a major catastrophe. The snow was measured unofficially at 21 inches at the Long Trail Lodge on Mendon Mountain just before dark. The fall ceased about 11 p.m.

With temperatures in the low thirties all day, the snow clung to telephone and power wires, snapping them by the hundreds. Weighted branches dragged over other lines breaking them or causing blown fuses. In the Rutland area almost 800 telephones were out of commission. Telegraph and newspaper teletype service became hopelessly tangled in the storm. Telephone and power company officials said repeated breaks in the wires made repair work a long and tedious task.

Burlington and Middlebury were completely cut off from Rutland at a late hour last night. Telephone company officials said the communication system out of Rutland was almost as hard hit as it was in the 1950 hurricane. In some areas the weighted telephone wires pulled their poles over the road, or tilted them at dangerous angles on hill slopes. Because of the shortage of lines, long-distance calls were delayed for hours. Calls from Rutland to Burlington were at first delayed up to three hours, and later ceased altogether. Except for emergencies, calls to Boston were held up for six hours as a back-log taxed the facilities to the utmost.

Communications with the outside world suffered a breakdown similar to other communities. Burlington and Rutland were both cut off from the capital.

In Rutland, where slushy streets made driving hazardous, police reported several auto accidents. Portable radio sets from Massachusetts, New Hampshire and New York State were rushed to Vermont by the telephone company to help in setting up emergency communications. Boston and Maine Railroad officials scheduled an emergency train to rush telephone trucks and linemen from Cambridge, Mass. to St. Albans. A railroad spokesman said the train, carrying the trucks on flatcars and the linemen in coaches would leave about midnight. He said the train would complete the trip to St. Albans early in the morning.

RUTLAND NEWSLINER, March/April 1953

Excerpts from: Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir: I am sorry that I haven't written sooner to tell you about the help we received from your Middlebury dispatcher, Richard Mooney. You will recall the damage done to our telephone lines during the storm of December 12, 1952. In addition to many local telephones, we lost contact with our Middlebury Central Office on the night of December 11, 1952.

Our Service Foreman, Frank Flynn, went to Middlebury to determine the extent of the damage and made plans to restore service. When he found our long distance lines down in many places, both north and south of Middlebury, it was necessary to get information through to Rutland regarding materials and manpower needed to repair the damage.

He went to your Middlebury Station and after explaining the situation to Richard Mooney, the latter was able to make a connection on your line to Chester Platt in Brandon. Mr. Platt relayed this vital information to our Wire Chief in Rutland who then was able to take the proper steps to restore service. The prompt receipt of this report from Middlebury played an important part in making early repairs to our lines. We wish to thank the Rutland Railway for this service and we hope that you will tell Mr. Mooney and Mr. Platt how much we appreciate their cooperation and spirit of service.

The letter is signed by G.W. Butters, Jr., Manager, Rutland Branch, New England Tel. & Tel. Co.

There are two morals to this story: 1. You live in Vermont, expect to have snow. 2. In Vermont, you can count on unsung heroes to provide a helping hand in time of need.

Enjoy the last few weeks of winter---Spring will soon be here and we can complain about the rain holding up planting season!

Tidbits from Then and Now

The Rutland Weekly Herald, June 6, 1901

The Corner Stone Laid

Impressive Ceremonies at New Masonic Temple Witnessed by 1000 People.

The laying of the corner stone of the new Masonic Temple on Washington Street by the Grand Lodge of Vermont was witnessed by over 1000 people. The weather conditions were favorable and the exercises passed off very smoothly.

The members of the local lodges of Free and Accepted Masons and of Davenport Chapter and Council, with many delegate Masons from outside the city, met about 12:30 o'clock at the Masonic rooms on Center Street. There were over 200 Masons present. The grand lodge officers and members of Killington Comandery of this city met at the temporary asylum in the Bardwell House about the same time and, escorted by the band, marched to Center Street, from whence they were accompanied by the others directly to the new temple.

The procession marched into the new temple to the first floor, where several hundred chairs had been placed. When the members of the order were seated, the public was admitted and the floor was quickly filled, while many people were forced to remain outside the building because of lack of room.

Upon arriving at the temple Grand Treasurer Charles W. Whitcomb of Proctorsville deposited various records in a copper casket nine inches long, 12 inches wide and three inches deep, after which the casket was scaled and soldered and placed in a receptacle hollowed out for it in the corner stone. The casket also contained an historic sketch of the Rutland Masonic Association and the workings of the organization since its formation, as well as the charter of the association and copies of the city newspaper which preceded the ceremony.

The ceremony of laying the corner stone was begun about 2 o'clock with a selection by the band. The working tools of the craft were presented to Grand Master W. Scott Nay of Underhill by the Master Builder Charles E. Paige, and the work on the building was examined and found correct. The tools were then returned to the master builder and the stone consecrated by pouring over it vessels of corn, wine and oil as emblems of the plenty, joy and peace which should be in the temple. John W. Cramton gave the Masonic Association the lot on which the building stands. The temple will be a perpetual memorial to him when finished.

Dr. J. E. Thompson of this city, as president of the Rutland Masonic Association, presided at the closing services in the new temple. Music for the services was furnished by a male quartet, Koltonski's orchestra and the Rutland City Band.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Mill Village School

Many years ago, an old Rutland Town schoolhouse was located on the south side of McKinley Avenue in Mill Village. It came into use as a one room, high ceilinged structure around 1918 after the original school building, next to the Mill dam, on the nrth side of McKinley Avenue had burned. Known as the Mill Village School, its students were from the immediate neighborhood [remember the neighborhood schools?]. The play area was the open lawn in front of the school building. The school was heated by a wood stove which was kindled early in the morning by a neighbor and frequently the fire would have died by the time the teacher arrived and would have to be re-kindled.

Classes began at nine o'clock and ran until four with the exception of the first three grades that were dismissed at three-thirty. Over the years the enrollment in the school ran between sixteen to twenty-five students. Subject matter covered the basics including history, geography, arithmetic and English with occasional music and art programs.

The school was fortunate to have a three-wick oil burner and the students could prepare their own make-shift lunch. Each child would prepare his or her own lunch and then join others to clean up to prepare for afternoon classes.

In 1919 a Parent Teacher Association was organized. The meetings were well attended and the school benefited from the interest of many parents. Around 1928, the school was equipped with a record player which diversified the music program. The heat was still by means of a wood stove and there was no water in the building. It was one of the duties of the boys to fetch water from the spring. There was an outhouse behind the main building.

During the early 1940s, the Mill Village School PTA organized a hot lunch program. Additional space and facilities were required to accommodate the program but the monies were not allotted to the Mill Village School as the Post Road School was also under consideration for renovation. There were surplus commodities available to the school through the WPA and the PTA was able to provide new playground equipment, electric lights and a piano for the school. Very few repairs were made, although by 1945 a new heater was installed and the PTA succeeded in opening a library for the circulation of reading materials for both children and adults.

The Mill Village School closed due to the lack of pupil enrollment and the children went to Center Rutland to school. In 1949 the building was auctioned off and Mr. Phillip Quirk, a school neighbor, purchased the building. A cellar hole and foundation was made and the building moved forward, the old wood shed was attached to the side of the building and converted into a garage. Extensive renovations took place inside the building and what had once been a one-room school to educate the neighborhood children became a comfortable two story home for a neighbor.

Painting by Faye Moulton

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland County Independent, May 18, 1867

Listen young ones, you have now arrived at an age when you must begin to think about doing something for yourselves. The first thing is to do everything well which you undertake. There is no position in life in which you will not be called upon to be exact as possible. Step into a jeweler's shop, and see how careful the workman must be in finishing up the article he holds in his hands. Visit a ship-yard, and the man with the broad axe must learn to hew on the line, or be dismissed. Never was there a person who was very particular about his affairs that was not successful. How exact the military officer in the command of a body of men! A clumsy sailor will never rise to the command of a ship.

There is one great danger which besets many young people at the present day. It is the disposition to avoid all solid improvement, and take up with subjects that require no thought, and which serve as mere excitement to the mind. No one will trust them--they will never fill any office or station. As you sow, so shall you reap. The person who spends hours late and early at the card table, bowling-alley, or tavern bar-room is learning nothing useful, but much that is injurious. Great people avoided these things, and owed their greatness to their attention in early life to what would be useful to them.

Interesting how so much of this same observation can be made in 2004, almost one hundred and thirty-seven years later. We could probably include the over use of computer "surfing" now. Even the following note, from the same paper, [remember this is from 1867] could be applied today.

"Drunk That's All."

The crowd on the sidewalk were shouting in merriment. "What is so amusing here?" "Why, don't you see?" was the reply, "the fellow's drunk; that's all."

Yes, I did see. It was a young man, who, in different circumstances, might have been called fine looking. He had evidently been well dressed a few hours before, though now his hat was battered, and his clothes soiled; and it made him a still more pitiable object to see the evidence that he had come from a good home. He sat on the dusty walk, his back leaning against the brick wall, his head wagging, his eyes winking, and an idiotic smile on his face.

A police officer soon came, who appeared to understand the case; and, lifting the poor, disgraced youth to his feet, he led him off, either to his home or some place where he could get sober. "He was drunk; that's all."

If that boy--for he was scarcely more than a boy--had a mother worthy of the name; if he had a father who knows what it is to be dishonored by a child, if he has brothers or sisters, will they not think it enough [very nice] for the son and brother to come home in charge of an officer, who will explain as he leaves him at the door, "I found him drunk in the street!"

How many hopes have been blasted, how many sorrows have been caused, how many graves have been filled, by intemperance! [or as today the drinking/driving and drugs!] Does history really change, or just keep repeating itself!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Edith M. Phillips, was born February 19, 1905 in Rutland, the daughter of Charles and Frances M. Phillips. When she was 13 years old, her family physician offered to have her stay with him and his family during an epidemic of either Scarlet Fever or Typhoid. Although there was a vaccine available, her parents were apprehensive about having her receive it. Despite this concern, she was vaccinated.. About a year later, she developed a death-threatening illness which left her badly deformed in her back and extremities. She always wondered if the vaccine had in some way contributed to the sickness. Her education from this time forward continued at home, as she was bedridden. In time, however, she walked with the aid of crutches.

In her early twenties, her uncle, who lived in Brooklyn, New York, encouraged her to take a home kindergarten course in order to support herself. She enrolled in the School of Modern Kindergarten Training, Inc., headquartered in Rochester, New York. She was awarded a certificate in 1930, the year in which she started her kindergarten in her home on Oak Street, where she continued to live with her mother.

Prior to this opening, Miss Phillips asked a current public school teacher what she would recommend for her to focus on. The response was: If you teach the students to concentrate, you would be providing a priceless foundation for their future education. In addition to teaching reading, writing and arithmetic, she provided music [she played the piano], craft opportunities and playtime.

Miss Phillips' school continued until 1971, having moved its location to her new home on Park Avenue. In her early years, she provided transportation. She would drive her handicap-equipped car, while her mother drove a large modified roadster, with seats along the sides.

Generations of Rutland area children were fortunate to be prepared by her for their education journey. Her students filled a variety of successful jobs in their adult lives. In her later years, Edith enjoyed the contact with her large number of grateful graduates. Edith Mary Phillips died on February 1, 1996.

The Rutland Historical Society has received the accumulation of many years of pictures from Edith Phillips' collection that they would like to identify. A great many of them may be family pictures or pictures of former students. There are many "class" pictures with no identification. By this article it is hoped that someone might come forward to help identify these children. If you attended the Jack and Jill Kindergarten, it is possible that the Society has a picture of you! An example of these pictures is shown here. Any help in identification would be greatly appreciated.

Tidbits from Then and Now

The Rutland Weekly Herald, January 10, 1907

The Vermont Sanatorium was made possible by the generosity of Redfield Proctor, senior United States senator of Vermont. The first institution of its kind in the state, it will be ready to receive patients next fall.

For years the people of the Green Mountain State have felt the necessity of a state sanatorium for the special treatment of tuberculosis. The subject has been discussed in all its phases and for some time there had been a desire on the part of many that the state take the matter in hand and establish such an institution.

It was at this stage of the proceedings that Senator Proctor came forward and contributed \$50,000 for the erection of suitable building and an additional \$100,000, the revenue from which, it is expected, will defray the running expenses of the sanatorium.

The first move was to select a board of trustees of capable men who would be willing to devote a portion of their time at least to seeing that the senator's desires were carried out. The first work devolving upon the trustees was to secure a suitable site and no less than 25 or 30 were inspected. The most favorable sites considered were in Mendon, Ludlow and Pittsford. A statement was prepared regarding location, soil, elevation and nearness to railroad facilities of these three sites which was submitted to six well-known specialists. Without exception these specialists all favored Pittsford and with these opinions to influence the trustees the Pittsford site was chosen.

The site for the sanatorium is about one and one-half miles drive from the village of Pittsford, which is rather round about on account of the hills. The site is 600 feet above sea level.

There will be three buildings, the main building being 100 by 100 feet. The side or wing building will be 70 by 30 feet. They will be of colonial architecture, built of wood, with red brick veneer and white marble trimmings. The main or center building will be two and one-half stories and contain a kitchen, dining room, laundry, heating plant, storage for provisions and general supplies, the servants and nurses' quarters, and all the medical rooms, including a suite for the resident physician. There will also be the administration rooms, the assembly room, library and eight single rooms for patients.

The wing buildings will be two stories high and connected with the main by covered corridors, which will be protected with glass enclosures on the north. Each of these wing building will contain rooms for 12 patients, with a small sitting room on each floor. There will also be a two-story ell back of the main building with medical offices on the lower floor and nurses' quarters on the second floor. The institution will accommodate in all 32 patients.

The Vermont Sanatorium is intended only for those early cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, in which there is reason to expect a cure, or at least such improvement of their condition that they may become wage earners again. It is, moreover, an educational institution where patients are

taught the simple, but important laws of hygienic living necessary for their own well being, and where they will also acquire the essential habits of personal cleanliness, so that, although they may not be cured, they will cease to be a menace to those about them, when they return to their homes. The price will be \$7 a week, payable four weeks in advance. This includes room, board and medical attendance.

The Vermont Sanatorium now the home of the State of Vermont Police Academy.

Tidbits from Then and Now

A Rutland Historical Puzzle – “Places Then and Now” by Beverly Seward

ACROSS

1. Copcat
5. Gardner's tool
8. Felix's roommate
13. FDR's canine
14. Nudnik
15. Lyons river
16. Fenway scoreboard entries
17. 'miracle drug' (init.)
18. Kind of eagle
19. Tokyo House & Subway
22. Annie's Book Stop/Ben & Jerry's
26. Appetizing
29. "_____ for tennis?"
30. Yarn ball to W.S.
31. Homes to heifers
34. Banking facility (abbr.)
35. Pianist Myra
36. A Great Lake
37. Freudian _____
38. Taxing initials
39. Maple syrup grade
40. Launch
41. Bargains
44. Rutland Fire Station
48. 'The Pit'
52. Used a stopwatch
55. Australian animals, for short
56. Anthony Eden's earldom
57. Bellow
58. Part of NIMBY

59. Clinton's Atty. Gen. (Janet)
60. Enjoyed Pico (in 61 across)
61. See 60 across (abbr.)
62. NCO

DOWN

1. In _____;(dazed)
2. Mutt & Jeff, (eg.)
3. Lamb's pen name
4. What some are always chasing
5. Film producer, (Ben)
6. Bone; (pref.)
7. Brother of an Ira
8. Memphremagog's county
9. Fortified wine
10. Gear tooth
11. Literary collection
12. Kinfolk
14. Fall guy
20. _____mi fa sol..
21. Pulitzer Prize aughor's autograph
23. Euclayptus eaters
24. Whole
25. Emulates Lorelei
26. Theological discord
27. On one's toes in Tours
28. Summertime sight at Bomoseen
31. Big Mac component

- 32. Joan of _____
- 33. Rob or Rogers
- 36. Common contraction
- 37. Word for superman
- 39. Snowed under
- 40. Restaurateur, Toots
- 42. Stick to
- 43. medium for Field or Frost
- 45. Printer's stroke
- 46. Genetic copy
- 47. lethal weapon
- 49. Currier's partner
- 50. They get their Acts together
(abbr.)
- 51. Granny, for one
- 52. Chef's measure
- 53. Sort
- 54. Apres Avril

ANSWER

#250 April 14, 2004

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland City Report 1914

Department of Public Works

Considerable work has been done on the streets of the City during the year and it is a source of gratification to me, and I am confident a pleasure and heartfelt relief to you to see our street department organizing into a mechanical-like being with the ultimate object in view of providing the City with streets and highways of a substantial and permanent character. This designation of the department is not extreme, but actual. There are 49 miles of street in the City of Rutland. It is impracticable with our allotted money to cure all the defects in even the major part of this vast stretch of territory in a number of years, but this department has done a great amount of work the past year as disclosed by the report of Commissioner of Public Works, and what comes or goes I trust that the progressiveness of this organization may not be interfered with.

The department has at present under observation a new roadway in Glens Falls with a view to ascertaining what is the best material for constructing permanent highways, and if the material used in the construction of this road should prove to be a desirable substance for use in the building of our roads from a business and economic standpoint, then I recommend its purchase and adaptation for those purposes.

Rutland Weekly Herald, November 18, 1915

It is estimated that the first permanent highway ever constructed by the city of Rutland, the brick pavement extending from the City Hall on Strongs Avenue to River Street, has cost about \$12,000, of which the city will pay about \$9,700 and the Rutland Railway, Light and Power Company, for the space inside its tracks and one foot outside of each rail, between \$2,500 and \$2,700. The work was done by contractor Fred H. Remington of this city, the laying of the brick being in charge of two experts from Philadelphia.

When the plan of laying some permanent highway was first talked, the officials thought West Street would be as good a place as any to make a beginning but later it was decided that Strongs Avenue would provide the better test. With the lower freight yard located on Strongs Avenue, the officials thought Strongs Avenue had to stand the heavier traffic, if not the most congested.

The report has been going the rounds for the last few days that some of the brick had begun to work loose, but this is denied by contractor Remington, who explains that the flange of the belt line and main line cars strike some of the brick and these have to be reset. This is nothing more than was expected and the street car officials understand that it is customary to reset some bricks set so the flange of the cars came in contact with them. This will gradually right itself. The roadway was built under specifications. The base is concrete, next comes a layer of sand into which the bricks are set and over all and in between the bricks is poured a strong concrete mixture.

Rutland City Report 1915

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

It is generally conceded that the greatest need of the city today is better streets and sidewalks. During the year past a substantial strip of vitrified brick roadway has been built on Strongs Avenue. It is hoped and expected that this street work will prove in fact permanent.

During this coming year, more work of like character will be undertaken. This kind of street building is, however, very expensive, and with forty-nine miles of streets and roadways to be cared for with the limited means at our command, only a very small part of the work of the permanent roads construction really necessary can be accomplished.

Therefore, the city should adopt some well defined policy of permanent street and sidewalk building,--a policy not subject to modification or change with each new administration. In this connection I most heartily endorse the course recommended by F. R. Patch, the Commissioner of Public Works; namely abutting land owners to share in the cost of permanent street improvement.

[Was this adopted?-should we check? YIKES!]

#251 Answers to #249 April 7, 2004



Historical Society Answer

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, November 25, 1915

GREEN MOUNTAIN BOY STATUE DEDICATED

The fury of the elements did not deter several hundred of Rutland's most enterprising citizens from attending the public dedication of the statue of the Green Mountain Boy by Ann Story Chapter, D.A.R., and its formal presentation to the city of Rutland, which took place in Main Street Park and in the assembly hall of the high school. [Meldon School, seen on the left of the statue, in the picture above. The city fire station now stands at this location]. The exercises were most impressive in character and the memorial more than exceeded the anticipation of all present.

This memorial to the brave Green Mountain Boys stands upon a pile of boulders, presented to the chapter by Col. Edward H. Dyer in memory of his mother, Mrs. Horace H. Dyer. It was Mrs. Dyer's idea to erect the statue, which stands eight feet in height. Made of solid bronze it is a work of art. It typifies in every line the rugged form and characteristics of the native Vermonter. The head is turned toward the marker of the old Rutland fort, which was placed by the chapter on the northeast corner of North Main and Terrill Streets. The heavy shoes, the buckskin trousers and the massive gun, all peculiar to the Green Mountain Boys, go to make the piece of sculpture the big success which it undoubtedly is. [The sculptor was Raymond Averill Porter. The model for the sculpture was Richard Recchia and the statue was cast by McGann in Somerville, MA].

Following the singing of "America," by the Marble City Quartet, the statue was formally presented to the city of Rutland.

The following remarks were given by Mrs. T.A. Davis:

"The giving of this memorial has to us a two-fold meaning, first to commemorate the services of our ancestors, who by their deeds of valor left us as our heritage, Vermont; then we would have it of educational value to the youth of the present and future generations. As they pass through this beautiful park and look upon this statue, may it be an inspiration to them to live model lives and to perform for their country and states such acts of patriotism as their times demand."

The following were excerpted from remarks by President John M. Thomas of Middlebury College:

“Our little state in the Green Mountains is a big network of fertile valleys and high and rugged mountains. If you will stop for a moment and think, you will realize that the natives of Vermont are strong and powerful men as a whole, very much like the land in which they live. The atmosphere is not suited to fostering weaklings. The Green Mountain Boys are now famous throughout our great country and we truly have a right to be proud of them and honor them..... They never sold their country and they made it what it is today. Sons and daughters of a pioneer people, it is to us ever a privilege to honor those who have gone before and to do what little we can to honor our dear Vermont.”

The committee in charge of the erection and dedication of the statue included Mrs. T. A. Davis, Mrs. George T. Chaffee, Mrs. Charles S. Caverly and Mrs. Robert A. Lawrence. The ceremony concluded with the singing of the “Star Spangled Banner” by Mrs. Cornie Glynn Cocklin.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald December 26, 1918

Nurse describes her trip to Vladivostok

Lillian LaVallee, Red Cross Worker, on Her Way to Join the A.E.F.

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph LaVallee of Cleveland Avenue have received a letter from their daughter Miss Lillian LaVallee of the Army Nurse Corps, A.E.F., Siberia, written on board ship, beginning October 12. Miss LaVallee is a graduate nurse from the Rutland Hospital. The letter is in part as follows:

"I've been trying to write you before this but I've been so doggon seasick I really didn't care whether I lived or died; in fact, I preferred dying to anything else, but that is all over now. I've found my sea-legs and am enjoying myself immensely. It makes just a week today since we boarded the ship, it seems longer as so many things have happened since. We are not making good time as we have had a very rough ocean and they tell us it is to be rougher still.

"Sunday, 200 miles from Alaska. This letter will be one continuous one. I'll write a little every other day or so. Today we are 200 miles from Alaska and, believe me, it is growing colder. I think we will stay in our staterooms tonight.

"I'm going to try an tell you about my trip. Now that we have all gotten over seasickness we are looking for amusements. We have a victrola and a player piano so we dance often. They have an orchestra that plays for us also. Moving pictures twice a week, saw Charles Chaplin in a "Dog's Life" last night. I have seen it in Rutland but enjoyed it all over again. We also play cards so you see there is no lack of amusements although you do get so tired of the ocean and the sky. All the men on board are not going to Vladivostok, some of them are going to the Philippines. Mother, dear, you would be in your glory if you were here as we have some honest to goodness Frenchmen on board. There are about 15 in all, they are the Militaire Francais en route to Vladivostok. They are very good looking in their uniforms but none of them speak English, so believe me we are speaking French and the real thing.

"This is certainly a long trip. We started from New York City September 28 and have been travelling ever since, we won't reach our destination until November 5 or so.

"Just think we have not seen land for 20 days. I don't think I will know how to walk when we get on terra firma once more. How is the war coming on? Any signs of peace? It seems queer not to have the papers. Wouldn't I just love to wake up some morning and find the Rutland Herald on my bed. Never mind, this is an experience of a life time and if it was to be done again I would be right there.

"Muroan, Japan--Arrived here Tuesday for four days, just leaving. I guess we saw everything there was in town. We went ashore every morning at 9 and reported back at 6 pm.

"Our \$1 (silver) is equal to 1.70 sen. or 1 yen 70 sen. when you get this through your head you are all right. To make you understand how many yens, they clapped their hands, I never clapped mine as much before.

"Talk about taking our shoes off! I wore out two pairs of stockings by taking mine off so often. They never wear shoes in the stores, homes or in fact anywhere but in the street and then they wear wooden clappers. I bought a pair but it was impossible to walk in them.

"We visited their hospital and they have no idea of asepsis or sanitation. They have a very good X-ray We saw them take a couple of pictures. We were also invited to an operation but did not attend. The nurses were all dressed in white, barefooted and made us take off our shoes there also.

"Last but not least, we saw the "Geisha girls", dancing girls. They were very good looking and had on wonderful kimonos and their hairdressing was magnificent. We went into a place to have our hair dressed but they wanted to oil it so we didn't stay.

"There is a boys' college and our officers arranged for a game of baseball yesterday afternoon. They played a good game but our boys won, 3 to 1. Can you imagine a baseball game in Japan. I don't know how they got to know about baseball, we asked them and they couldn't understand.

"We are to reach Vladivostok either Monday or Tuesday. I don't think anything of interest will happen until after we reach Vladivostok."

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 29, 1914

Bardwell Grill

Luncheon Every Day 35 cents

Bardwell Grill

Dinner Every Day 35 cents

This "ad" is for the Unfortunates who have not yet tried the "Cuisine" that is making the "Grill" famous.

You school teachers coming to the city today; you shoppers who come to Rutland every day; you busy business man; you employees of all mercantile houses and you housekeepers who should realize that it is cheaper to dine here than to prepare meals at home. Why not try the following delicious luncheon that will be served today at the Grill from 12 to 1:30 for 35 cents.

MENU

Home Made Clam Chowder

Cold Consomme en Tasse

Shredded Cabbage, Cream Dressing

Roast Prime Ribs of Swift's Beef au Jus

Baked White Chicken Halibut au Buerre Fondu

Roast Loin of Bardwell Farm Pork, Apple Sauce

Fried Shore Haddock Steaks, Breaded a la Espagnole

Cold Cuts of Roast Beef

Cold Haunch of Veal

Cold Boiled Virginia Ham

Baked Imported Italiane Macaroni au Gratin

Boiled Potatoes

Roasted Potatoes

Mashed Potatoes

Mashed Turnips

Succotash

Apple Pie

Custard Pie

Blackberry Pie

Cold Lemon Meringue Pudding

Mint Jelly

Coffee Jelly

Iced Tea

Iced Coffee

Iced Milk

Coolest Place in City to Dine

Bardwell Grill

Luncheon Every Day 35 cents

Every Day 8 A.M. to Midnight

Broiled Live Lobster

Little Neck Clams

Soft Shell Crabs

Lobster a la Newburg

Fresh Lobster Salad

Chicken Salad

Our Sea Food received every second day,
thus ensuring the very best.

Bardwell Grill

Dinner Every Day 35 cents

Every Day 8 A.M. to Midnight

Small Sirloin Steak.....35 cents

Liver and Bacon.....35 cents

Spring Lamb Chops.....35 cents

Shore Haddock Steaks.....35 cents

White Chicken Halibut.....35 cents

Bluefish Steaks.....35 cents

French Fried Potatoes and Bread and

Butter served free with any of the above orders.

Today, 35 cents doesn't even come near the amount of a tip for a dinner of such fare!

Many famous people stayed at the Bardwell during the years it served as a hotel right across from the railroad station. Among them were John Brown's widow who stayed overnight while transporting her husband's body to Northern New York for burial. Mrs. Abraham Lincoln and other personalities through the years. Many of the performers at the Playhouse or the Opera House also were accommodated by the Bardwell.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, September 30, 1929

Vermont's Hiking Cows Reach St. Louis Ahead of Schedule

Completing their 1200 mile walk from Brandon, VT to St. Louis, MO in ten days less than scheduled time, Alice and Tomboy, the hiking Ayrshire cows, arrived at their destination in ample time to be placed on exhibition as one of the special features of the National Dairy Show. Although a minimum of 10 miles per day had been prescribed, these cows had no difficulty in travelling 20 miles or more per day, with a maximum distance of 25 miles. Both cows were weighed at St. Louis, with very little change in body weight or general condition.

In response to an invitation from a number of the leading cattle-breeders of the Pacific coast, Alice and Tomboy were shipped in a special car to the Pacific International Live Stock Exposition at Portland, Oregon, where they were placed on exhibition. The return trip from Portland included a week's stop at the Kansas City, MO Royal show, after which both cows were returned to their homes in the Green Mountain State.

The long walk of Alice and Tomboy was planned as a demonstration that the modern pure-bred cow has just as much stamina and endurance as the early cattle that accompanied the pioneers across the continent.

Furthermore these hiking Ayrshires were also sent out to prove that the up-to-date cow is capable of efficient production under most unusual conditions. Alice had made 11,022 pounds of milk during the year, in addition to her long road trip, and was due to freshen again at the Portland show. Tomboy milked as high as 50 pounds per day and had an average of over 40 pounds of milk per day while participating in the "milky derby."

Grain was provided en route, but the roughage supply consisted solely of what grass the cows could secure while travelling or while tethered at night. No water was carried, and the cows depended on brooks and roadside pools for their water supply. Notwithstanding the long, hard trip in the heat of midsummer while in heavy milk production, together with constant changes in feed and water, Alice and Tomboy maintained their body weight.

Since much of the distance covered was over hard surfaced roads, it was found necessary to shoe Alice and Tomboy with regulation ox-shoes. Although there was a dearth of ox-shoers through the country, a few good horse-shoers were located that could adapt their art to the cows.

Alice and Tomboy were greeted, feted and visited by the citizens of scores of towns and cities on their route. The governors of Ohio and Indiana officially received them. The Titusville, PA Merchants' Association presented them with bouquets of flowers; the service clubs of several cities entertained them. They were the guests of honor at picnics at Alfred, NY and Garrettsville and Hiram, OH. College professors as well as experts in dairying and animal nutrition studied their achievements with scientific interest.

Accompanying the cattle on their trip was an attractive “barn” mounted on a truck chassis. This “barn” contained the grain supply for the cows, as well as living quarters for those in charge.

Tomboy was bred and owned by L.B. Chapman, who maintained a herd of 200 Ayrshires on a mountainous farm near West Rutland, VT. Alice was bred and owned by the Vermont Industrial School at Vergennes, VT. Alice’s aunt--her mother’s sister--was the highest record cow in Vermont. Both of the “bunion bossies” were attractive specimens of the Ayrshire breed and were red and white in color.

Not only have we had some famous people from the Rutland area, but local cows produced a little fame of their own!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 12, 1929

Service Building is Nearly Completed

Work of erecting a front on the new Service Building on Merchants Row is progressing rapidly according to a report received from Carl B. Hinsman, a joint owner of the structure.

The workmen are placing masonry and windows on the seventh floor in position. Above that floor on the front of the building will be a parapet wall of pressed brick and ornamental stone, terminating in a 15 foot tower. The top of the tower will be ornamented with a large five-foot, copper lantern, which, when lighted, will be visible for miles in all directions.

August 14, 1929

There is little question now as to whether the new Service Building will be the tallest structure in Vermont, for another nine feet has been added to its height, making it's tower 20 or more feet above all business blocks in Rutland. A five-foot metal lantern will gleam from the highest point on the tower and actual observation has proven that it will be visible from nearly all parts of the city. The front of the building just above the store fronts will be adorned with four, five-foot metal lights with many-colored glass shades. These decorations, as well as all others on the face of the building, will be of futuristic design, in common with the type of construction being used on the building.

All hardware in the building will be of solid cast bronze in the latest futuristic design. The handles on all doors are by Sargent and officials of that company stated that the Service Building is the first in the country to be completely equipped with this new design. The main stairway from the ground to the top floor is being constructed by the crew of carpenters on the job. This stairway will be located at the east end of the lobby and beyond the elevator.

March 5, 1930

Work on the new seven-story Service Building on Merchants Row will be completed within a month, according to Carl B. Hinsman. Tenants who have established offices in the building are: Isadore Backon, tailor; Dr. Joseph A. Marini; Monarch Accident Insurance Company; Jones & Jones, lawyers; Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Company; C. H. Springer, architect; Elias F. Haddad, lawyer; Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company; Metropolitan Life Insurance Company; Dr. Earle E. Johnson, dentist; Aetna Life Insurance Company; Jack A. Crowley, lawyer; Dr. Stewart Ross and Dr. E. J. Rogers.

The total over-all height of the structure is 101 feet. The tower has been built higher than originally called for in the plans and will rear 20 feet above the parapet wall. A beacon of marine glass, slightly tinted with amber, is visible far away and aviators who wish to land in Rutland at night will be aided by the beacon's guiding light.

The entire building contains 106 tons of structural steel and is the largest in this vicinity. The old building which stood on the site of the new one was turned over to a wrecking crew on October 16, 1928 and actual construction of the Service Building was started about a year later.

[There is some controversy regarding the old building being totally demolished before construction of the new building. It would be interesting to see if someone who was around at that time might have seen some of the work being done, particularly the wrecking of the old building. There is construction evidence that seems to indicate that part of the back part of the old building remained and was incorporated into the new building].

Tidbits from Then and Now

A follow-up on the Service Building.

October 6, 1928

The structure, to be known as the Service Building is scheduled to be completed by May 1, 1929. The north, south and east walls of the bank building, which now stands on the site, will be left intact and the rest of the building will be entirely new. Two large stores, each about 20 by 80 feet, will occupy the ground floor, one to each side of the main entrance. The entire six floors above the stores will be devoted to office suites.

The first-story front will be built of ornamented cast stone, while the remainder of the front will be of pressed brick of a light color. A parapet wall about 10 feet in height will surmount the seven stories to balance the long effect of the building. In the front center of the roof will be erected a tower with a lantern surmounting it.

The building will be about 100 feet high from the sidewalk to the lantern, which will surmount the tower. The Mead building which is the next tallest office building in Rutland, five stories in height, while the tallest building of this type in the state is that of the National Life Insurance Company in Montpelier, which is six stories tall.

The old Baxter Bank was built by Gen. H.H. Baxter in 1870 on ground which was purchased from John W. Cramton, who was then owner of the Bardwell Hotel. General Baxter was first president of the institution and its largest stockholder. The bank occupied the same building until April 1928, when it was moved to its present location at the corner of Merchants Row and Center Street and the name of the institution was changed to the Central National Bank of Rutland.

As noted in last week's article, the building was not completed by May 1st, and the following article appeared in the Rutland Daily Herald on November 1, 1929.

While horrified fellow workmen looked on, Earl H. Lang, 33, of Prospect Street plunged six stories to his death through an elevator shaft at the new Service Building on Merchants Row. It was the second fatal accident, which has occurred during work on the structure.

The winter of 1928, Lang and Norman McCloud of Scotland were working outside the building. A plank dropped, narrowly missed Lang and killed his fellow workman. This was the first fatality at the building. On the day of the second accident, Lang, who during World War I was a captain in the 101st ammunition train, 26th Division, was working alone as a carpenter beside the elevator shaft. No one knows what happened. Employees on nearly every one of the six floors saw his body come hurtling through space. Workmen left their posts and rushed to the ground floor, where the body of Lang was lying. The superintendent and the workmen were saddened by the death of Lang, who was one of the most popular men on the job. He began work on the building, when the construction company arrived last year. His home was in Lyndonville and his wife and two children had moved to Rutland just weeks before the accident..

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, June 24, 1909

AERONAUTS HAVE CLOSE CALL

After an exciting trip including at least one narrow escape, the aeronauts, Prof. W.H. Pickering and Jay B. Benton of Boston and Pilot William VanSleet of the Pittsfield, Mass. Aero club, who ascended from Rutland in the balloon "Massachusetts", on June 18th and landed at Gilmanton, NH six miles from Laconia.

Charles J. Glidden, owner of the balloon, who had intended to take the trip, acting as pilot, gave up the idea at the last minute on account of the high wind which was blowing. Mr. VanSleet took his place.

The gradual filling and graceful ascent of the big Glidden balloon "Massachusetts," made a picturesque and animated scene in the small square between the gasometer and the shirt factory on Cleveland Avenue. The ascension was announced for 9:30 a.m. and long before that time people thronged the street cars, the highways and the railroad tracks, bringing together a crowd of over 2000 people, not counting the scores of heads in windows and the persons on tops of buildings and perched on airy and precarious perches around the temporary enclosure. As early as 6 a.m., Pilot VanSleet was on the grounds with Mr. Nugent of the Pittsfield Gas Company, superintending the inflating of the big bag.

The huge yellow-silk bag was only half full when the time for starting arrived, but it filled rapidly and made an impressive picture as it gradually rose in its nets, straining and threshing in the strong breeze as the hooked-on bags of ballast were gradually shifted lower and then replaced by the willing hands of scores of men and boys. When it finally reached its full height and swung lightly through the full arc of its 70 feet of height, almost lifting the human ballast off their feet, the wonderful lifting power of its 56,000 cubic feet of gas was apparent and many were the exclamations of awe and wonder as the basket was coupled on.

Most of the people hurried uptown and many watched the great orange globe swing rapidly to the sky line, finally disappearing over Bald Mountain about 13 minutes from the time it was cast loose, according to an observation taken from the Herald building.

The prominence of the balloonists added much interest to the ascension. Prof. Pickering for whom the trip was arranged, was director of the astronomical observatory of Harvard University from 1877. He established the first physical laboratory in the United States. Study of light and spectra of the stars were special features of his work and he made more than a million measurements of the light of stars. Prof. Pickering made the statement that although he did not believe that Mars was inhabited, he believed that if such was the case the inhabitants could be communicated with through the use of gigantic mirrors and that he would be willing to make the attempt if \$10,000,000 was furnished for the work. He stated that this ascension had no connection with this theory of his.

Mr. VanSleet, who acted as pilot, was considered to be one of the most expert balloon men in the country, having made 37 successful flights, several of them being made at night.

Mr. Benton, the third member of the party, who was an associate editor of the Boston Transcript, had never made an ascent before.

As several local men are interested in making an ascension it is very probable that Mr. VanSleet will return to this city with a balloon within a week or two and take up two or three Rutland men with him. Mr. Glidden, owner of the balloon, was himself an expert balloonist, having made 28 ascensions in this country, France and England. He is also a well-known automobilist and promoter of telephone and telegraph companies.

The aeronauts were much pleased with the gas furnished by the Rutland Railway, Light and Power Company, which they claimed was much above the average. They stated that Rutland had many natural advantages for ballooning which is not possessed by Massachusetts cities.

(more ballooning next week!)

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald July 27, 1909

Rising gracefully from the little enclosure around which stood more than 2000 enthusiastic people, the big balloon Massachusetts, piloted by William VanSleet of the Pittsfield, Mass., Aero Club crossed mountain range to the east and landed in the town of Barnard. The weather conditions were ideal for the short flight. The distance covered by the balloon was about 20 miles, air line, and the highest altitude reached was 4800 feet, shortly after leaving Rutland.

A special kind of coal gas had been manufactured for the purpose of inflating the balloon, which required about 56,000 cubic feet, but owing to the fact that the city had used an unusually large quantity, it was found necessary to turn the special gas into the city mains. This made it necessary to use between 8000 and 10,000 feet of water gas in inflating the balloon, and delayed the ascension about an hour, while the gas was being manufactured. The lifting power of the water gas is much less than that of coal gas, and this fact interfered with the original plans. Four Rutland men, F.M. Wilson, C.H. West, H. Clinton Carpenter and H.A. Mattison, had arranged to make the ascension. When everything was ready and the pilot and his passengers had taken their places in the basket, it was found that the weight was too great to carry more than a short distance without leaving behind all the ballast, and cutting short the flight. It was then decided by Pilot VanSleet that one of the party must give up the trip. Mattison being the heaviest man aboard, the decision favored the others, and he gave up his place, regretfully but philosophically.

The balloon, thus lightened, rose slowly and majestically, between 250 and 300 pounds of ballast being taken along. Cheers went up from the crowd as the big craft made its way into the upper atmosphere. The passengers were delighted with the trip and were afforded a splendid view of the country over which they passed. Mr. Wilson expressed enthusiasm over the trip. "It beats automobiling all to pieces," he said. "The trip was splendid." After crossing the mountain range the balloon was allowed to descend gradually until it landed in a meadow in Barnard.

All conversation in the crowd was centered upon the balloon and the men who were to make the ascension and many and varied were the comments. The courage of each man was thoroughly discussed, many believing that the party would be considerably diminished before the balloon was cut loose. Some of the spectators would be glad to go up if they had the price, others if someone else would pay for the passage, while all of the money in Rutland wouldn't induce others to get their feet off the ground. The women found much pleasure in telling their companions of the feelings they would experience if their husbands, or sons, or fathers, or lovers were to go up in a balloon, and if their statements were true there would be many deaths in this city, as large numbers were heard to announce that "they would be worried to death." Others "wouldn't stand for it a minute," while a few of the courageous ones stated that they would be glad of a chance to go up themselves. It was well worth a trip to the grounds just to walk around and listen.

It is understood that another balloon ascension would be made the next day and include Mr. H. A. Mattison (the one who was left behind on this trip). By the way, he worked for the Herald!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, March 10, 1930

HUGE BRIDGE BUILT BY IRA MAN DOOMED

With the word going around that the old wooden bridge at Blenheim, N.Y., the longest single span wooden bridge in the world, was doomed and would be destroyed when the new concrete highway from Blenheim to Grand Gorge is built next summer, local people recalled the story in connection with the structure in which Nick Powers, a Vermont Yankee, participated.

Powers was a resident of Ira at the time he built the bridge and later moved to Clarendon, where he died. His daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mary Powers, was a correspondent for The Herald, for a long time.

Seventy-five years ago, it is recalled, Powers stood on the roof of this long span, the completion of which had just been consummated under his able direction and ordered his men to "take down the bents." These were the great timbers that supported the bridge over the turbulent Schoharie Creek at Blenheim, N.Y. "The bridge is too long to stand, you'll be killed," was the warning shouted back by the men to whom Powers had issued his command. "If she sags two inches," shouted Nick from the ridge boards, "I'll jump off."

Nevertheless, it was with fear and trembling that the men started to comply with the directions. They thought they knew something about covered bridges. They had been shaking their heads and telling Nick that such a bridge never had been built and never would be. Two hundred and thirty-two feet between abutments is a long stretch, even for steel bridges. "Only a fool would try a span that distance with wood, unsupported." They believed that the moment the "bents" were knocked out the whole structure would plunge into the water and the bridge company would be bankrupt. But so confident of his work was Nick Powers that he mounted to the highest point in the center of the roof and shouted to them, "Let her go!"

Bent after bent was taken out from beneath the structure and when the men who had predicted it's downfall saw that it was going to remain in position they covered their chagrin by declaring that it would sag so that it would be useless for traffic. This was when Nick challenged the crowd: "If she sags two inches I'll jump off." But he didn't have to jump. The new bridge didn't sag even one inch.

For 75 years this long span stood the test of the master builder who perfected his craft before the days of steel construction. Today [1930] the old bridge stands straight and true and hasn't sagged through all the years. Except for a few hand-wrought bolts the bridge is every bit wood, good old native oak and pine. It is a double bridge, 26 feet wide, with two driveways. Through the center of the structure runs a huge arch of wood, built of heavy plank, extending from pier to pier. For the most part all the beams are pinned and keyed with wedges for tightening. The entire structure was roofed and shingled and this covering has withstood the test of time and protected the timbers from decay. Another curious thing about the method of construction is the fact that the bridge was entirely built and erected on land before being placed over the river. While the

work was going on the masonry was being constructed at either side of the stream. The two huge stone piers were completed under the direction of Powers and made ready for the erection of the bridge when the structure had been completed.

It is seriously affirmed that a jug of fine old rye whiskey is buried in one of the abutments, but only time can verify the statement. The story is told of how the men at work on the masonry sent a Polish stone workman over the mountain to Tibbets, now known as Broome Center, for a jug of whisky. As he returned with his treasure President Dikeman of the construction company appeared on the scene and stuck by so closely that the boys never got a chance to drink it. Dikeman was a "dry," or teetotaler, as the prohibitionists were known in those days. The only thing to do was to wall the jug in, and there it remains to this day, according to old settlers, who claim to know.

[May 12, 2004 research found that although the new concrete bridge was completed and used, they did not destroy the old wooden bridge].

Tidbits from Then and Now

Cigarette smoking has become a big local topic of conversation as well as a product that is being banned in public eating establishments as well as public offices. All due to the fact that it has been discovered that personal smoking and "second-hand" smoking can cause multiple health problems. Don't for one minute think that this is a modern subject of concern. Examples of advertisements for tobacco antidotes were very prominent even in the newspapers of 1869.

Rutland Independent, March 6, 1869

Orton's Preparation touted its effectiveness. One box, at one dollar per box, was "warranted to destroy the appetite for tobacco, in any person, no matter how strong the habit may be." If it failed in any case, there was a full refund guarantee.

The makers of Orton's Preparation noted that it was "almost impossible to break off the use of tobacco by the mere exercise of the will." It was claimed that the preparation acted "directly upon the same glands and secretions affected by tobacco, and through these upon the blood, thoroughly cleaning the poison of tobacco from the system and thus allaying the unnatural cravings for tobacco." Although the time for effectiveness varied from person to person, it was claimed that most people lost all desire for tobacco in about five days.

Dr. Byrn's Antidote claimed to be a cure rather than a substitute for smoking, chewing and snuff-taking. It was advertised as a purely vegetable and harmless substance which could nullify the terrible effects of tobacco which seemed to be killing 100,000 people annually. It also claimed that dyspepsia, headache, disease of the liver, sallow complexion, bowel problems, loss of memory and other diseases were brought on by the use of tobacco.

Yet another antidote for tobacco was Dr. Jonathan V. Burton's Tobacco Antidote. This could invigorate the system, possessed great nourishing and strengthening power and produced refreshing sleep and robust health.

All these warning signs and advertised "cures" of the addiction of tobacco were noted one hundred and thirty five years ago. History not only repeats itself, but it can go up in smoke!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Excerpts of a letter written by A. B. Foote to J. P. Woodward who had moved to Wisconsin. The letter starts on July 8, 1855 and is finished on August 5, 1855.

A LETTER TO THE WEST---1855

Dear Sir:

....I was glad to hear you had all arrived in Wis. safe and sound and doing so well there. I am glad you "have 'scaped your rut", and am sorry that I am not out there too. Everything necessary for the support of a family is dreadful "high up" in this section of country and as for Shoemaking in Rutland, it is worse this summer than it has been before since I came here. I trust, as patiently, yet sanguinely, as did Micawber, that some where, some time, somehow-- "something will turn up".

In the way of news I have not much. There was an exhibition of Indians here on the 11th. Good bands of music and all that. Their tents were about as large as circus tents generally are, were pitched, out on the Common, in front of Academy Building [where the Rutland Fire Station now stands].

The celebration of "The Glorious Fourth" in this place, showed that Rutland isn't dead yet. "The Day" was ushered into Rutland at half past six in the morning; at which time a bunch of fire-crackers--ignited--were thrown from Thrall's office window by "Reuben's"[Ruben Thrall, Rutland lawyer] hired man. At 10 o'clock a very large quantity of fire-crackers were lighted and thrown into "an empty barrel of flour" placed on the common for that purpose. The effect of this was truly startling! After that I didn't discover anything in particular going on--except a shower or two--until about 2 p.m. when our well-known and worthy fellow citizen Mr. Bill Cain appeared on the ground, planted the cannon immediately in front of the Franklin Hotel, and taking due and deliberate aim down the street, at the County Jail "blazed away". This cannonading was kept up at a spirited and vigorous rate until the inmates of the Jail dangled a red flannel shirt on a broom handle, from a second-story window, in token of submission and sent a messenger with a flag of truce, bearing a note to our commander, with this laconic sentence, "We acknowledge ourselves prisoners!" But at any rate, the signal must have been satisfactory to the besiegers as the firing ceased as soon as the powder "give out".

Along in the afternoon a company, called (or ought to be called) the Rutland Invincibles, turned out in full dress, and showed the nation that some things can be done as well as others. They marched straight up the hill and then marched down again. They eyes'd right and eyes'd left. (I don't know but one or two eyes'd right and left at one and the same time). They turned corners with the most admirable alacrity, and performed divers brilliant and soger-like [soldier-like] evolutions not laid down in the books. I noticed that our worthy and gifted young townsman Mr. James Quow (colored) officiated as snare drummer. The bass drummer and fifer were white. The whole command of Capt. Brooks (colored) presented a splendid appearance; and were followed, wondered at and admired by "a large concourse of our intelligent fellow-citizens, all of whom seemed to feel that the country was safe. In the evening the "living tide" poured down the

hill, near to Bardwell House to witness a fine display of fireworks. There fire-works were got up with a commendable regard to expense and reflected much to the honor and good sense of our citizens. Fortunately, or unfortunately, as if to save the devoted town from dire conflagration, a shower came up just before the "works" were to have been finished.

....Excuse the wretched penmanship and give my respects to Mr. T. and all "enquiring friends". Write again when convenient and be assured, for the present of my "high esteem, etc."

A. B. Foote

Tidbits from Then and Now

The material for this article about the history of Dewey Field in Center Rutland was submitted by David Dickinson.

When anybody goes by Dewey Field with its tennis courts, bleachers, snack bar and fencing, one might think it was always a fancy field. However, many changes have been made over the years.

Fifty years ago, the left field of the ball field had a large drop-off into an old gravel pit which was affectionately called "the dump". A ball hit into "the dump" was almost always a home run. In center, the area was steep and would have been a good area for mountain goats. Center field also was home to a very large rock. Right field was level but had a heavy crop of hard hack brush about two feet tall. The right fielder had to hurdle over the brush in pursuit of any fly ball in his area. This was a difficult task for the unlucky guy who was put in right field.

The large pine that stood in the area of the tennis courts was Center Rutland's answer to a jungle gym. The young guys around the field spent a lot of time crawling high into the branches of the old pine. One of those guys was Richard Del Bianco, who would climb to the very top of the tree and would proceed to broadcast any game that was going on at the field at the time. Most of the time it was a fake because the microphone he had was not hooked up to anything. It was, however, very entertaining. Sadly to say, lightning struck the tree and it had to be removed. A 200-year-old landmark disappeared forever.

Dewey Field was not named as a tribute to Admiral Dewey (Vermont's famous Admiral) as some people had thought. Instead it was named "Dewey" after a widow, Ella Dewey, who was the lady who sold the property to the Vermont Marble Company.

The Vermont Marble Company deeded the 4 1/3 acres to the Town of Rutland in 1939. The sale price was less than \$100.00. A restriction in the deed reads that the land shall always be used for recreational purposes only. If used for anything else, the land would revert to the Vermont Marble Company.

Improvements to Dewey Field were not always made with money furnished by the Town. The members of the Center Rutland Athletic Club ran bingos to raise money to get improvements done. In the forties and fifties, the town officials did not consider money for recreation a necessity. The Center Rutland A. C. hired R. D. Barker and his steam shovel to remove the hill in center field. They donated all the fill to contractors, but asked them for a donation. As each donation was received, they hired R. D. Barker for another day. At times, seven or eight trucks were lined up to remove this fill. Some people in the area loaned equipment, such as Bill Taranovich from T&T Tractor. Farmers from around the town would drive his bulldozer. The Wilk Brothers donated the use of their grader to help level the field. Members of the A. C. were always looking for used material to bring to the field. One find was lumber for the first bleachers at the field. The Rutland Fair was replacing some of their bleachers in front of their grandstand and gave the A. C. the old bleachers for Dewey Field. A crew of teenagers and adults went to the Fairgrounds with a farm truck to haul the bleachers to Dewey Field. When reassembled, the field had its first bleachers. They were a far cry from the nice bleachers at the field today, but it was a

start. The lights for the field were donated by Jimmy Marro and the poles donated by CVPS Corporation. They were put up with employees of CVPS donating their labor and skill to erect the lights. Town officials soon started making money available for improvements and the recreation efforts in Rutland Town took a new direction.

Many people in our town had a hand in improving Dewey Field. Some of these people have passed on. Some of the young guys are now adults and live among us.

Some families that helped in one way or another to develop Dewey Field and helped develop the baseball activities were: the Del Bianco family, the Blickarz and Gallipo families, Joe F. Czachor, and the Sabotka, Dickinson, Duprey, Ribolini, Popovitch and Vajda families. In recent years, the town fathers (selectmen) and the Recreation Commission have taken over the responsibility for improvements.

This short history is dedicated to some of our greatest fans who hardly ever missed an opportunity to sit in the bleachers and cheer the team on. Those that I remember most are the late Hamlet Terenzini, the late Arvid Johnson and the late Jim Reilly.

Members of the first organized youth team who deserve a lot of credit for getting things going were Rick and George Duprey, Robert Pond, Peter Baker, Mike Sabotka, Stanley Bania, Mike Blickarz, Rod Gallipo, Robert Sharp, Lindy Larson, Victor Regimbald, John Thomas, Richard Wood and many others.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 3, 1930

The Rutland Fair association has let the contract to Earle & Merry of this city to erect a boys' and girls' building on the grounds which, with the site, will cost \$20,000. Grading already has been begun and actual construction will be started in a few days in order that the building may be ready for use during the fair in September.

"The purpose of the building," Will L. Davis, president, said yesterday, "is to provide better facilities for the boys and girls who are doing so much to better agriculture and allied branches and to meet a demand by the state for larger accommodations for exhibits of the forestry, agricultural and other departments."

The fair association acquired property south of the present fence and the new building will stand at what is now the intersection of Coolidge and Dana Avenues. The fence will be moved later so that the building will stand within the exhibition grounds. The building will be known as the Boys' and Girls' building. It will be constructed of wood, two stories high and will be painted to harmonize with the other fairground equipment.

July 24, 1930

The frame and roofboards and part of the siding of the new state building at the Rutland fairgrounds will be completed by Saturday, it was stated yesterday by fair officials.

Approximately 750 feet of woven wire fence is being placed inside the track in front of the grand stand and the track is also undergoing repairs. The course was found to be in excellent condition except for small spots where the clay had become thin. Workmen were placing clay on these areas.

New sewers and drains are being installed on the south side of the grounds in order to drain more land and provide for extra parking space. Two acres have already been converted into available space for 500 cars. Another improvement is being made by putting gravel on the road to the south gate. It is stated that this will make less congestion for vehicles going to the New York and Boston highways. Ceilings are being installed in the restaurant booths and the barber shop beneath the grandstand.

Sounds like the annual "get ready" time for the fair association. How many can remember the "new" Boys' and Girls' building being put up? Is it still called by that name?

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 6, 1931

The Government is ready to receive bids for the removal of the Memorial building on the property on West Street, which will be the site of Rutland's new \$300,000 Federal building. The bids are to be opened on the afternoon of January 16th. The specifications are available for inspection by local contractors who will make all bids. Bids are closed to all outside competition so that local men may be employed in the work which is principally manual labor. [Apparently outside contractors were able to bid, as long as they would hire only Rutland men as the lowest bidder was S. Winnick & Son Company of New Haven, CT at \$1449].

January 9, 1931

Nine contractors who would employ strictly Rutland men have applied for copies of the specifications for the removal of the library [Memorial] building on West Street to make way for the new post office and federal building which will be erected on the site in the near future. The contract will include the complete removal of all materials from the lot, including any debris left from razing the building and the safe delivery to the library site [the former Federal building on Center Street] of the leaded glass windows and marble tablets on the front of the Memorial building. [The leaded glass windows are now in the archives of the Rutland Historical Society and have been cleaned and releaded].

January 21, 1931

Cannons that formerly decorated the lawn in front of the Memorial building on West Street, will soon be erected in Main Street park, probably near the statue of the Green Mountain Boy. The cannons were given to the Rutland Post American Legion. At the meeting of the board of aldermen, Thomas H. Hascall made a motion asking the board to grant permission to the Legion Post to place the cannons in the park. The board voted to grant the permission, provided the cannons were erected under the supervision of the commissioner of public works. Before the matter was adopted, Alderman A.C. Grover smilingly asked Alderman Hascall if he could promise that the cannons would be used only as decorations. [According to later articles, this never happened as the cannons rusted their existence away at another site].

January 27, 1931

"No outside labor hired here." A group of about 20 men found this to be true when they came to Rutland from outside towns to get work tearing down the Memorial building on West Street. They were literally "down and out." The Salvation Army had to give them a breakfast and the Red Cross gave them dinner tickets and then sent them back to their homes, with orders not to come to Rutland looking for employment. Local officials told them that there were plenty of men in Rutland looking for work of any sort. A specific clause in the government contract for demolishing the Memorial building required the employment of only Rutland men.

February 26, 1931

Ellery R. Purdy of Morse Place, coach of athletics at Rutland High School, felt that every Rutland citizen should vote in favor of a \$45, 000 bond issue for the conversion of the Federal building on Center Street for use by the Rutland Free Library.

The \$45,000 will not be spent in converting the building in, to a luxurious lounging space for children and grown-ups. It will be used in repairing the structure, creating adequate storing places for the many thousands of valuable books, providing proper sanitary accommodations which were lacking in the West Street location of the library. [People will remember that the library was on the lower floor of the GAR [Memorial] building, location of the present post office]. The interior will be redecorated and refinished. All of which will give employment and give the city a real library institution. Mr. Purdy stated that every city the size of Rutland should have an adequately stocked and properly housed library. [Today the Rutland Free Library has been expanded, redecorated and refurbished. It provides the city of Rutland with an adequately stocked and up to date facility].

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, April 3, 1943

**Old Ross House, Standing In Rutland
for a Century And Half, to be Torn Down Soon**

John Wallace Ross, a grandson of Ambrose Lincoln Brown, recalling the history of the old homestead, said it was purchased by William Jenkins some time around the turn of the 19th Century. At that time the front door was on the east side, facing the old stage route from Boston to Montreal and the old Crown Point Road (Main Street).

"Four generations of my family lived there," stated J. Wallace Ross, "three of us boys were born there in the northeast bedroom. Charles in 1863, myself in 1865 and George H. in 1868. I remember my mother telling me that when I was still a baby in my crib, there was a big fire on the Main Street--which destroyed the court house and the old Franklin Tavern. She put a blanket in the window so the glare from the fire wouldn't awaken me. After I became older we children used to play among the ruins."

"After my grandfather owned the house and as his family grew he had to enlarge the home and built an ell on the north side. Up at the corner of what is now North Main and Terrill Streets was Fort Rutland. There was just a round earthen circle about 50 feet in diameter, left of the Fort when I was a youngster. My brothers and I used to go up there to the spring for water as did most of the people at that time."

"The original land was a big farm extending from Main Street almost to Center Rutland and this house was at one time almost the only one west of Main Street to what was then Gookins Falls and is now Center Rutland."

According to Vermont Historical Gazetteer, Ross' grandfather, Ambrose Lincoln Brown was born in 1795 and "fitted at Castleton Academy." He read law with Hon. C. K. Williams of Rutland; practiced in Rutland from 1819 to 1837; had a paper mill at Center Rutland; and was editor of the Rutland Herald. He became a civil engineer and had much of the credit for bringing a railroad to Rutland about 1847. He was also probate judge for the District of Rutland from 1832 to 1835 and from 1838 to 1839. He also was town clerk from 1827 to 1848, at which time it is believed the Rutland Town Clerk's office was in the Ross house.

"My grandfather was also deacon of the Congregational Church while an attorney at law. One day he said, "I can't belong to the church and be a lawyer also. I'll give up law."

"One of the most interesting features of this house is the old Dutch Oven in the kitchen where all meals were prepared in the adjoining fireplace and many's a time I have seen my mother bake from 18 to 20 mince pies in that old Dutch Oven. That oven is a very rare sight around this region and probably is the only one of its kind in this vicinity. The original sink is still in the kitchen but the cupboards over and under the sink have been put in since."

“The house was heated by fireplaces until stoves came into existence in about 1869. Besides the kitchen fireplace and Dutch Oven, there is also an original fireplace in the downstairs front room. The mantle is still the original one but has not been used since the house was cut off on the west side at the time Nichols Street was constructed in about 1890.”

There are still signs around the house of the late George H. Ross, weather observer, who was the last of the Ross family to live there. In one small trunk are his complete records of weather dating back well over 25 years. He lived in the dimly lighted house, which never was wired for electricity, with his cousin, Miss Aimee F. Brown. He died nearly a year ago and his work has been taken over by George L. Kirk of East Washington Street as weather observer.[All these weather records are at the Rutland Historical Society]

Dr. J. Malcolm MacDonald, who became the new owner of the house, was going to build an exact replica of the home after the war was over. The house at this point contained 13 rooms, including many closets and small storing rooms

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 26, 1894

Something About Incubators and Chickens

The natural process of hatching chickens and fowl of all kinds is rapidly disappearing in favor of the modern artificial incubator.

W.K. Farnsworth of this city is hatching chickens at the Kelley farm on the Creek Road by the incubator process. The incubator proper, which sets upon a framework about three feet high, is a box three feet long, two feet wide and 10 inches deep. The upper chamber contains a water tank that is heated by kerosene lamps. Below the tank is a screen upon which rest the eggs. Directly beneath the screen is an air box for ventilating purposes. The eggs are placed upon the screen and are kept for three weeks at a temperature of 103 degrees Fahrenheit. Once a day the eggs are allowed to cool off while the incubator is thoroughly aired and ventilated, and twice a day they are turned over.

When the eggs are ready to hatch a peeping can be heard within the shells and a short time later the chickens begin to pick their way out into the world. It is an interesting and amusing sight to see the little fellows try to free themselves from their delicate prison. Usually the bill and then a foot will be thrust out and the shell will readily crack and allow the occupant to clear passage out of his embryo home, but sometimes the shell will stick to the chicken's back and be carried around for some time. Some chickens are much stronger than others. The stronger ones will begin to eat at once, and are fed upon hard-boiled eggs, [???] finely chopped, and bread and milk while others refuse nourishment for 24 hours. The chickens are usually given over to the maternal care of a nesting hen for a few days, but oftentimes they are reared by hand until they are fully able to care for themselves.

Mr. Farnsworth has raised over 400 chickens this spring, and is expecting to hatch more. In the last hatch 80 chickens were obtained from 90 eggs.

You may have known all about the incubators, but being city reared, I had no knowledge of such an interesting thing. Many years ago I was given some chickens by a neighbor. They did nothing for me except entertain one of my sons who had the job of caring for them --NO EGGS! Peter Cupoli came to my rescue and took the hens home with him. Would you believe, they gave him all the eggs he wanted. But then, I can't even get flowers to grow well!

Rutland Daily Herald, May 30, 1894

"Railroad Jack"

"Railroad Jack," the terrier who has traveled through the country for the last eight years in mail cars, attracted a good deal of attention at the depot yesterday afternoon. From the depot he went to the postoffice in the mail transfer wagon and was fed. He will leave town when it suits his

convenience to do so. [According to the previous day's paper, "Railroad Jack" was staying at the Bardwell Hotel while in town].

"Railroad Jack" is a small dog of a grey color, blind in one eye and not very attractive in appearance, but for all that he is a great favorite with the mail and postal clerks throughout the United States. He travels at will in postal cars and can tell a postal clerk as far as he can see one. Jack wears a collar which is heavy with medals that have been tacked to it during his nomadic wanderings. One, dated Seattle, Washington, October 13, 1893, bears this inscription:

"I guess I am an innocent abroad;
I travel through thick and thin,
But I meet with kindly treatment
And like to be taken in."

And how many times have you heard that dogs don't like mailmen?!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Historical tidbits often come from the most unlikely of sources. Recently the Rutland Historical Society received the Rutland Municipal Court records, dating from 1847 to the 1960's, which had been languishing in the basement of the Castleton State College Library. As these records had been visited only a handful of time in the last 30 years, the College Archivist felt the records might receive more use at the Rutland Historical Society. In sorting through the last box of these records, Jim Davidson picked up an 1849 folded record which to his surprise had the title: "Militia Roll for the Town of Rutland: April 1849". The roll contains over 200 names, all males of course. Why this valuable document should have been in with the Municipal Court records is unclear. Nevertheless, this find was most exciting and it seemed to be something that should be shared with the general public.

Ambrose		Allen
C.	C.	Alvord
Matthias		Ames
Avery		Ames Jr.
Lucius	F.	Ashley
Philip		Averill
George	N.	Ayers
T.	R.	Bailey
Charles		Barney
Joseph	B.	Barney
Robert	C.	Barney
Benjamin	A.	Barrett
Rockwood		Barrett
Hiram		Batchelder
Jerry		Beach
Isaac		Benson
Jesse	L.	Billings
Leeds		Billings
Henry		Blanchard
Levi	B.	Boardman
Samuel		Boardman
M.	Cook	Bogue
Milo		Bowen
W.	H.	Bowen
James		Braddish
John	B.	Brewster
David		Brown
Lucius		Brown
H.	W.	Burnett
Abraham		Butterfield
Henry		Campbell
Burr		Capron
Shepherd		Capron
Theron		Capron
Benjamin		Capron, 2nd.
Dennis		Carnine
Nathaniel		Chaffee
E.	G.	Chatterton
Isaac	T.	Chatterton
James	M.	Chatterton
L.	J.	Chatterton
David		Cheney
Hiram		Cheney
James		Clark
Harmon		Clark Jr.
Charles		Clement
Amos		Cogswell
Azro		Colston
Stephen		Colton [?]
Israel		Cook
Thomas		Coppins

H.	B.	Cutting
Harrison		Daniels
Stephen	L.	Daniels
Albert		Davis
Alford		Davis
Lafayette		Dikeman
John		Downs
John	M.	Drown [?]
Walter		Drown
Franklin		Dunklee
George		Dyer
W.	P.	Elliott
Ambrose		Estabrook
James		Everson
Chauncey		Fenn
Gideon		Fenn
James	F.	Fenton
Charles	W.	Filmore
J.	W.	Firlen [?]
Daniel	C.	Fisher
Lyman		Fisher
Martin		Flannigan
John		Foot
Ira	C.	Foster
George		Freeman
Henry		French
James		Gaines
Gardner		Gates
James	E.	Glynn
Marcus		Goodrich
Mason		Goodrich
Chauncey	T.	Gorham
Marcus		Gorham
Spencer		Gorham
Henry		Gould
Harvey		Green
E.	K.	Greenleaf
Benjamin	R.	Greeno
J.	G.	Griggs
S.	J.	Griggs
R.		Grinnell Jr.
F.	A.	Griswold
William		Hagar
Franklin		Hale
George	P.	Hale
Henry		Hall
James		Harmon
George		Hart
Hawkins		Hart
R.	H.	Hascall
Alanson		Hatch

Sylvester		Henry
James		Hinckley
Geo.	W.	Houghton
Moses		Howard
Henry		Howe
Joel		Howe
Horace		Hubbard
Dennis		Jackson
Cyrus	L.	Johnson
J.	H.	Johnson
John		Johnson
Nahum		Johnson
Stephen		Johnson
William		Johnson
Joseph		Jones [?]
Jonathan		Kelley
William		Kelley
Newton		Kellogg
Walter	E.	Kilburn
Daniel	M.	King
Edward		King
G.	A.	King
Franklin		Kirkaldie
John	F.	Knight
Almon	D.	Ladd
Jeremiah		Leonard
W.	H.	Liscomb
A.	J.	Littlefield
Sumner	C.	Long
Myron		Lyon
W.		Lyon
William	H.	Lyon
Madison		Manley
George		Massey
Henry		Massey
Charles	S.	May
Henry		Mead
R.	R.	Mead
Hernan		Mighell
John		Mortrom
Robert		Moulthrop
Charles	E.	Munger
Douglass	D.	Osgood
Egbert		Paige
Benjamin		Parker
Alford		Perkins
Moses	J.	Perkins
Charles	A.	Perry
James	M.	Perry
Parkill		Perry
Alanson		Phillips

Horace		Phillips
John		Pike
F.	N.	Pratt
Henry		Pratt
John		Price
J.	B.	Proctor
Willard		Proctor
Edmund		Quilty
Daniel		Reed
Edwin		Reed
Enos		Reed
Henry		Reed
A.	B.	Reynolds
A.	T.	Reynolds
Morris		Reynolds
O.	L.	Robbins
C.	R.	Roberts
Andrew		Rodgers
Harvey		Royce
Alonzo		Seeger
Alford		Severance
Henry	G.	Shaw
Dexter		Shepherd
Elisha		Smith
Ezra	M.	Smith
Gilbert	R.	Smith
Grove	L.	Smith
Joseph	E.	Smith
W.	H.	Smith
William		Smith
H.	L.	Spencer
E.	H.	Squier
William		Stafford
Calvin		Stratton
David		Strong
George	W.	Strong
Marvin		Strong
William	E.	Strong
D.	W.	Styles
David		Taft
M.	S.	Thayer
Jeremiah		Thornton Jr.
Rollin		Thrall
H.	D.	Tuttle
Asahel	W.	Ward
Charles	E.	Ward
G.	W.	Ward
George	H.	Ward
George		Ward
George		Ward
Warren		Ward

J.	L.	Wardwell
Charles		Waterhouse
Erastus		Wells
J.	C.	Wells
Charles		Wilkins
Horace		Wilkins
James		Willis
John		Wilmarth
Silas		Wilmarth
James	K.	Winchell
John	P.	Woodward
Lucius	W.	Wright

Tidbits from Then and Now

Excerpts from The Vermonter--1920

Rutland has taken a forward stride as a progressive Vermont community in the formation during the past year of a modern Chamber of Commerce. Usually the formation of such an organization is expected to mark the opening of a campaign to attract all of the manufacturing enterprises within a radius of several miles.

Rutland sees industrial growth as a part of the progress of the whole community in more ways than the acquisition of smokestacks. Mushroom growth is not sought by Rutland; but the city does propose to oil the wheels of progress a wee bit and deliberately plan its future rather than leave it to chance.

A misconception is that a Chamber of Commerce is an organization of mercantile interests only and that lop-sided progress will result. The Rutland Chamber of Commerce is an organization of citizens and not of so-called "interests." Its membership is 1,500; and every line of professional, industrial, financial and mercantile activity is represented by several members. There are 180 women members, and there is one woman on the board of governors. The board consists of two bankers, an editor and a telephone company official who hold the four offices. On the board of 21 governors, there are six merchants, four manufacturers, three lawyers, two insurance men, one real estate man, one wholesaler, one doctor, one minister, one retired citizen and one woman.

The new organization came about through a desire of the members of its predecessor, the Rutland Business Men's Association, to expand into a broader and more effective body. The Association had been in existence since 1912. In a matter of months the organization grew from one of 200 members to 1,500 members. A paid manager was secured, who devotes his full time to the direction of the chamber's affairs.

The following list shows some of the things handled by the Chamber of Commerce during the past year: Obtaining a state armory building, which is now about completed and which will furnish Rutland with the finest convention hall in the state. The Chamber took the initiative in bringing this about; Cooperation in the war department's selection of Rutland as an official landing field with the number Vt.22; Initiated and carried out a preliminary investigation into the gas rates of the local power company, with the immediate result of an adjustment in the rates more satisfying to the Rutland public; Cooperated with the Vermont Horticultural Society in conducting the annual meeting and Apple Show in Rutland.

The theory that industrial growth follows logically upon the development of a new spirit of enterprise in a community is well demonstrated in the experience of the past year or so in Rutland. Half a dozen new industrial enterprises have come into existence during the "reconstruction" period. The Tauber-Lipton Company, shirt makers, was helped by the chamber in putting up a modern building, thus rendering their location here more permanent. The Chamber was also instrumental in bringing to Rutland the Marble City Manufacturing Company, makers of shirt waists, which has also located a factory at West Rutland. The National Fly

Catcher Company and the Crammond Manufacturing Company both operating small businesses were also encouraged to Rutland by the Chamber of Commerce, along with the Hall-Hartwell Company, shirt-makers; the New England Table Corporation, and the Rutland Sash and Door Manufacturing Company that all started up because the originators wanted to do business in Rutland.

The new Rutland factory of the Tauber-Lipton Company. The building still exists at the end of Cleveland Ave.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, Wednesday Morning, April 29, 1931

AUTO BUILDING AT FAIRGROUNDS BURNS; LOSS FULLY \$75,000

Fire of undetermined origin totally destroyed the huge automobile building at the fairgrounds, endangered several nearby houses and for a while threatened to sweep through several valuable buildings on the north side of the grounds. The building housed the Rutland Miniature Golf Course, valued at more than \$15,000.

Help was summoned from West Rutland and Proctor to assist the Rutland fire department. So great was the start of the fire that it was impossible to check it. Discovered by Miss Marjorie Rousseau of 167 South Main Street [stenographer at Clement National Bank] shortly before 4 AM, the fire roared through the building in less than an hour.

Firemen, summoned by a box alarm, noting that it would be impossible to save the huge building, erected only a few years before, concentrated their efforts on saving houses on Park Street and South Main Street. Duplex houses at 9 Park Street, home of William D. Aldrich and George L. Bellany; 11 Park Street, home of Theodore M. Willett and Mrs. Martha Woodward and 167 South Main Street, home of Charles Spoon and Jerome F. Rousseau were set ablaze by huge sparks, pouring from the burning building and it was necessary for a while to keep streams of water on those houses to save them.

Buildings on the fairgrounds were badly scorched and a number of windows in the structures were cracked and broken. The fire destroyed two of the main power circuits of the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, bringing darkness to hundreds of houses in the city in the vicinity of Strongs Avenue, Killington Avenue and even as far as Baxter Street and Library Avenue.

The fire department's alarm was able to ring out only one round, due to its destruction. When the firemen arrived at Park Street at 3:55 AM the automobile building was a solid sheet of flame and it looked as though every house on Park Street and every building on the north side of the fairgrounds might go. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, decided that help was desperately needed and telephoned both Proctor and West Rutland.

The building at the entrance of the fairgrounds, where the ticket selling is taken care of during the fair, caught fire several times but each time the blaze was extinguished. The flames illuminated the sky and could be seen miles away. Firemen from West Rutland and Proctor said they saw the illumination from the fire, as they went out to answer the alarm.

The north-bound sleeper, scheduled to arrive about 4 AM, was halted and passengers aroused by the roar of the flames and the fire sirens, rose from their sleeping berths to see the flames. A huge crowd, all attracted by the glare from the fire gathered, shortly after the alarm was turned in. The large sparks, which were thrown out from the building, started fires in hats, coats and other garments worn by the spectators.

All that was left of the automobile building, which had the largest floor surface of any building in the state, was a few pieces of wooden supports, the rest of the place was burned to the ground. The miniature golf course was installed in the building early in the winter and was in use just the day before the fire. Fire Chief Koltonswki was unable to state exactly what caused the fire, and the building was never rebuilt.

Rutland Minature Golf Course [presumed to be the one demolished by the fire]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, October 17, 1931

WEST ST. BRIDGE TO COST ABOUT \$10,000

Concrete Span to Replace Covered Wooden Structure, 75 Years Old

The work of replacing the old covered bridge on West Street, west of Meadow, with an ornamental reinforced concrete structure is now well under way by a crew of city employees directed by Superintendent John Connor. The new bridge, which is to cost approximately \$10,000, is to be constructed as a state-aid project by the Rutland department of public works.

The old structure, which has served Rutland for more than 75 years has been partly dismantled and is now impassible, traffic being detoured over other streets. Forms and a part of the concrete abutment work have been completed by the laborers, who are practically all "new" to the department.

The new bridge will be 74 feet long with a 20-foot roadway. For the accommodation of pedestrians there will be a five-foot walk on one side. A center abutment and pier is now being constructed. Excavations for placing the abutments and piers will necessitate the removal of approximately 343 cubic yards of earth.

About seventeen and a half tons of reinforcement steel and 276 cubic yards of concrete will be used in the new span.

When completed, this bridge will set a few feet to the south of the location of the wooden structure. Its road level will be somewhat lower than that of the old structure. However, it will not be level with the present highway, which probably will be raised later to the level of the bridge roadbed. About 154 lineal feet of balustrade railing will ornament the sides of the new structure. Above the railing will be a number of ornamental lights. When completed, the bridge is expected to be not only sturdy but pleasing in appearance. It is to be completed in about two months.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 3, 1932

Where High School Pupils Went To Classes In 1855

The predecessor of the present Rutland school system was the Rutland Union School district formed on April 6, 1855 by the four districts into which the village of Rutland was then divided. Rules and regulations were issued for the school year 1855-56, the first in the Union High School's history.

The old Rutland Academy became the Rutland Union High School. The Rutland Academy was a private educational institution, the trustees of which leased the buildings and land to the Rutland Union School district for 500 years from May 1, 1855. The lease provides that if the buildings are not kept in good repair and properly insured or if a school is not maintained on the site for a period of six months, except for delays necessary to repairs or rebuilding, the land shall revert to the lessors. [NOTE: This land is where our present fire station stands!]

The rules and regulations contain some oddities in the light of present day high school practices.

Article I. The school shall commence during the year at 9 o'clock, A.M. During the Winter and Spring terms the school afternoon session shall commence at 1 o'clock, P.M. and for the remainder of the year at half-past 1 P.M.

Article II. The bell shall be rung fifteen minutes before school time, morning and afternoon, and again at the hour of commencing school. At the close of the second ringing, the doors shall be shut and no absent scholar admitted for the half day unless presenting a written excuse from parent or guardian. [1932 note from article--"The closing of the doors against tardy pupils would seem an unusual procedure and might be a considerable hardship to the average pupil of today"].

Article III. The school shall be opened in the morning by the reading of a selected portion of Scripture and such other religious exercises as the instructors may deem advisable.

Article IV. It shall be the duty of the Teachers of the school to keep a list of the names of the scholars, also to make a record of all absences, recitations, and deportment, and make a monthly report of the same to the parents or guardians of the different scholars, which report shall be returned to the Teacher, with the signature of parent or guardian, on Monday morning of the following week. In cases of considerable delinquency in attendance and study, the Teacher shall notify the parents or guardians oftener than above mentioned.

Article V. When the unexcused absent marks of any scholar shall amount in any term, to *ten*, it shall be the duty of the Teacher to report the same to the Prudential Committee, who may, at their discretion, exclude said scholar from the school for the remainder of the term.

Article VI. In all cases of absences, or requests to leave school for a part of a day or longer, or to be excused from any study undertaken, or any exercise of school, it shall be the duty of the scholar to present to the Teacher a written excuse from parent or guardian.

Article VII. It shall be the duty of the Teacher, whenever in his opinion the interest of the school may demand any further punishment of any scholar than provided for by the ordinary discipline of the school, to report the same to the Prudential Committee, who shall have power to reprimand, suspend or expel such scholar at their discretion. In cases of *obstinate* disobedience, the Principal is authorized by the Committee to suspend or finally exclude the offender from school.

Article VIII. All complaints of parents or guardians in regard to the management or discipline of their children or wards, shall be made to the Prudential Committee, whose duty it shall be to investigate and decide concerning the same; and in no case shall the parent or guardian make complaint to the Teacher in school or in the presence of any scholar or scholars.

Article IX. Parents or guardians shall be responsible for all damages done to the school building or the appurtenances thereof by their children or wards, which damage shall be assessed by the Prudential Committee, and paid before said children or wards shall thereafter be entitled to the privileges of the school.

Article X. If any pupil shall willfully deface, defile, cut, or mark with chalk or pencil the school building or the desks, furniture, fixtures, books, apparatus, out-buildings, fences or property belonging to the same, it shall be the duty of the Principal to inform the Prudential Committee immediately, who shall take measures for the repair of the injury according to the nature of the offence.

Article XI. Scholars not belonging to the District may be admitted to the school on such terms as the Prudential Committee may prescribe.

Article XII. The Principal and Teachers may exercise jurisdiction and control over the scholars while they are upon the grounds of the High School and may prohibit all sports which are liable to injure the school building or property in the vicinity or the disturb the quiet of the neighborhood.

Article XIII. The school shall be visited each week by some member of the Prudential Committee according to an order of rotation to be established among themselves.

Article XIV. There shall be public examinations of the scholars at such times as the Teacher may think proper, and the absence of scholars from such examinations, except in case of sickness, shall be considered as a ground of expulsion.

Article XV. Parents and guardians are requested to cooperate with the Teachers in maintaining good order; in securing on the part of their children or wards, punctuality in attendance, promptness in lessons and earnestness in study. It should be constantly borne in mind, that the

character, reputation and final success or failure of the school lies to a very great degree in the power of the parents and guardians.

School bells are ringing again! Some of these rules and regulations are still in effect today, some are challenged and some are just a little more difficult to maintain in the present society. But, school is school and face it the “scholars” must!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, Thursday, February 9, 1933

Creek Road Rum Plant Scrapped As 2 Go To Jail

The two alleged operators of the still at the Van Olinda home were arrested with Van Olinda by state and federal officers during a raid early Tuesday morning. Joseph Mannino of Brooklyn, N.Y. pleaded guilty to a charge of illegal manufacture of alcohol. He complained of a foot injury which he said he sustained when he attempted to escape the raiders. He was taken to Rutland Hospital, where it was found he suffered a broken bone in his left foot. He was treated and returned to jail. Joseph Faucetta, the second operator, denied that he was illegally manufacturing alcohol. He was returned to jail in default of \$1,000 bail.

While the \$50,000 stills and equipment seized at the William E. Van Olinda home on Creek Road were being dismantled yesterday by a crew of plumbers, spectators and citizens were discussing rumors which attributed ownership of the huge moonshine plant to a mysterious Rutland alcohol ring.

It was reported that the output of the Creek Road alcohol plant was so great that the product was sent to scores of cities and towns in southern Vermont and eastern New York. This made a deep impression on some of the listeners. Scores of automobile loads of spectators drove down to the Van Olinda home to watch the dismantling work. However, special police were stationed at the main entrance to the building that housed the stills and no one was allowed to enter.

Federal authorities made a raid in the eastern section of the city last year in search of a still which was supposed to have been erected there by a liquor ring. However, on that occasion, the officers arrived before the still had been set up. It was reported that the still was set up in another location in this city, but the owners received a scare and, by a stupendous effort, removed the still in five hours.

The \$50,000, 370 gallon still was about six feet in diameter and four feet high. The condenser, with smokestack appearance, extended about 12 feet and through the floor of the second story of the house. There was a redistilling cooker with 263 gallon capacity and a receiving tank where finished alcohol was collected before filling five-gallon shipping cans. Four large vats, each with capacity of 1269 gallons of stock, were full when agents "called." The window was skillfully covered with tar paper to prevent detection. There were also two other large vats in another room, full of stock in process.

Plumbers who were engaged in the dismantling work said that the plumbing work on the still was done by experts. Prohibition agents declared that the stills with the column condensers were of the very latest type and were very costly. This part of the equipment was made entirely of a fine grade of copper. Tests made of the alcohol manufactured showed that it was of good quality and high proof. Officers expect the entire distilling equipment will be dismantled and transported to the County Court building until the final disposition of the cases against Van Olinda, Faucetta

and Mannino. Parts that can be salvaged will be sold if purchasers can be found. The remainder will be smashed and sold for the metal in it.

February 24, 1933

Creek Road Man Admits Liquor Law Violation; State to Sell Still

William E. Van Olinda at whose home a \$50,000 alcohol still was seized by federal and state dry law enforcement officers on February 6, was fined \$750 and costs in City Court after he pleaded guilty to the charge of illegal possession of intoxicants. Van Olinda had previously denied his guilt. Joseph Mannino of Brooklyn, N.Y. was fined \$600 and Joseph Faucetta \$300 after they admitted to charges of illegal manufacture of the intoxicating liquor.

[NOTE: William E. Van Olinda's name will be recognized by many as the man who had the airport on Creek Road. One has to wonder if this type of transportation could have been involved in the caper!]

Tidbits from Then and Now

This picture is copied from a glass plate in the collection at the Rutland Historical Society. There was much mystery about it as the building was not a familiar landmark but indicated that it was the location of "Lansley's Rutland Commercial College". There were no buildings in this picture that would indicate that this was in Rutland. That is, until recently when the Rutland Weekly Herald of January 11, 1866 revealed the following event.

A fire broke out yesterday afternoon about half past five o'clock in the rear of Simons & Edson's store. Mr. Simons was drawing petroleum fluid from a barrel, and by some means it caught from the lamp and instantly the room was in a blaze and very soon burst out of the window next to Lyon, Quinn & Co.'s livery stable. In a very few minutes fire engines were playing upon the fire and although it burst out in front and worked its way into the second and third story, it appeared at one time as if it would be subdued without great difficulty. After a lull of fifteen minutes the fire broke out again and became uncontrollable. Nothing remained of the once splendid Union Block but the naked walls. In addition to this block the wooden building directly south owned by Mr. H. Bryant was burnt to the ground. The wind blew gently from the northeast throwing showers of cinders into the road.

The principal sufferers in the brick block are the following: Simons & Edson Store; C. & E. Mussey's Billiard Saloon; Charles Mussey's household goods; Prof. Lansley's Commercial College; McLean & Robbins, Printers; J. B. Kilburn, Millinery Goods; Nathan Pierce, Dry Goods; Norton & Robinson, Provisions and Groceries; Pond & Morse, Druggists. Besides the above mentioned, the Rutland & Washington Railroad Company, Z.V.K. Wilson, Superintendent and M. A. Fisher, occupied rooms in the building. Sufferers in Mr. Bryant's wooden building are: Mr. Potter who lost his household goods; Dr. Allen; and F.D. Gilson, keeper of an eating saloon.

There were some narrow escapes from suffocation and falling ruins, but no serious injuries. Chester Kingsley, William Thrall and James Levins were injured while contending with the flames. Mr. Kingsley was on top of the building and becoming suffocated fell through the skylight about 12 feet and sprained his ankle rather badly.

The immediate prospect in front of the Herald building [on the north side of Center Street] was gloomy as the smoke rose from what once was an elegant structure; but, over these ruins could be seen for the first time from the Herald's windows, the Bardwell House, the flagpole, the Engine House, the spacious dome of the Round House, the Depot building and in the distance a spur of the Green Mountains.

The walls of the Union Block on the north and south sides, together with the partition walls, fell with a tremendous crash and nothing exceeded the desolate appearance of the standing ruins. The fire at the Union Block was by far the most destructive fire that had ever occurred in Rutland.

The Brandon Fire Company kindly volunteered their services. Moved on the Rutland Railroad, they arrived too late to be of essential service. Their generous proffer of assistance was none the less highly appreciated. They came with full ranks, and immediately took hold of the remaining work with a will. They are entitled to the warmest thanks of the citizens of Rutland.

The Rutland Courier, January 12, 1866

In the opinion of John Cain [Editor], two thirds of the property in the January 10th fire could have been saved had it not been that the water intended for such contingencies had been appropriated to a skating rink. In the summertime if anyone so much as washed their windows with aquaduct water, commissioners made a big deal of it, yet in the dead of winter, water was sold to outsiders for a skating rink.

Rutland Weekly Herald, January 18, 1866

Workmen commenced pulling down portions of the ruined walls of the Union Block that had remained standing. Others were engaged in removing the bricks and rubbish that lay thickly strewn in Center Street and Merchants Row. The building was one of the largest, if not the very largest, in town. It was situated at the corner of Center Street and Merchants' Row, extending about 100 feet on Center Street and 80 feet on Merchants' Row and was three stories high.

In 1867 a Rutland Weekly Herald article noted that Pond & Morse, with Frederick Chaffee, had commenced the erection of a brick block at the corner of Merchants Row and Center Street where two stores of the Union Block were destroyed by fire Jan. 10, 1866. Mr. Michael Quinn contemplated a three-story brick building adjoining the site of the old Union Block, on Merchants Row, with a frontage of 28 feet and a depth of 60 feet.

Mystery solved! This brick building did belong in Rutland and was replaced by the building we all know as the Rutland Savings Bank building at the corner of Center Street and Merchants Row.

Tidbits from Then and Now

An article about the sinking of the USS Republic in 1865 and the recent recovery of its treasure appears in the September issue of National Geographic. A Rutlander, William T. Nichols, was on the ship and survived to write an extensive description of the sinking of the ship.

On two unrelated occasions, the Rutland Historical Society received two inquiries regarding Nichols, one from National Geographic and one from the Maywood Illinois Historical Society. As we knew little of him the Society began to look for information about this man. The search was successful and we would like to share some of this information with you.

Rutland Daily Herald, April 11, 1882

Rutland received the sad news of the death of Colonel W.T. Nichols, formerly of Rutland, at his home in Maywood, Ill. He was ill less than a week, having been taken down with pneumonia. His remains will be brought to Rutland for interment. He leaves a wife and two children. Colonel Nichols was prominent in business and political circles in Rutland and Rutland County for many years.

Rutland Daily Herald, April 17, 1882

William Thomas Nichols was born in the town of Clarendon, Vt. March 24, 1829. His father, James Tilson Nichols, was a man of marked character and was highly esteemed by all who knew him. His mother's maiden name was Minerva Briggs. She was a woman of the best type, and from her the son inherited many sterling traits of character. Five children were born to them: Col. William T., Lieut. Sutley S., Maj. Henry James, Harrison and Minerva A. Three of the sons, Wm. T., Sutley S. and Henry James, served with distinction in the war of the Civil War.

William's education was obtained at the district school and at the academy in Poultney, where he prepared for college. The same industry and integrity which characterized his whole life were manifest during his school years, and he graduated from the academy as valedictorian of his class. He decided to forego college and commenced the study of law at Rutland, with the firm of Foot & Hodges. The senior member of the firm was a distinguished United States Senator.

He was admitted to the Rutland bar in 1852, and commenced a lucrative practice. He was twice elected State's Attorney for Rutland County. He was subsequently associated with Hon. Robert Pierpoint, formerly Chief Justice of the Circuit Court of Vermont. In 1852 he was elected assistant clerk of the House of Representatives of Vermont.

Col. Nichols was married in 1856 to Miss Thyrsa S. Cramton, an estimable lady, who died November 15, 1865. Two children were born to them--May and Lucy. May died October 11, 1865.

On the breaking out of the Civil War he enlisted as a private in the First Vermont regiment, and served with the regiment until its term expired. After his return from the war he was twice elected a Representative to the Vermont Legislature. He served on the committee on military

affairs. In 1862 he again enlisted in the Fourteenth Vermont regiment as a private, but was immediately elected colonel and commanded the regiment during its whole term of service. His regiment was in active service with the Army of the Potomac and along with the Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fifteenth and Sixteenth Vermont regiments, distinguished itself at Gettysburg.

Returning from the war he was twice elected to the Senate of Vermont, being then the youngest member ever in the Senate.

In 1865 he turned his attention to a Southern enterprise, and sailed for New Orleans on the ill-fated Republic, which was lost off the coast of South Carolina. After drifting three days in an open boat, without food or water, he and his brother, Henry with eleven others finally reached safety at Charleston Harbor. Only a few days after his rescue his wife died. The news did not reach him however, until eight weeks afterward. His eldest daughter, May, had died only a few days previous to his departure. The news of his wife's death induced him to return home, and he finally gave up the Southern enterprise and sought another field of action.

He moved to Chicago in 1868. Prior to this he had made several trips to the West, with a view of locating there and investing in lands. He conceived the idea of forming a suburban town near Chicago and establishing a branch of industry which became an important factor in the enterprise of the West. The site of this town was about five and one-half miles from the limits of Chicago, and he named it Maywood, after his first daughter, May.

In 1869 he married Miss Helen Cramton, sister of his first wife. Two children, Edward Cramton Nichols and Henry Hayward Nichols, were born to them.

About this time he succeeded in making a very great improvement in a very common device for moving earth, called the scraper, usually a rude and crude implement. This machine became known all over the country as the 'Maywood Scraper and Ditcher.' A large factory was erected for its manufacture in Maywood. He proceeded to invent a revolutionary process in the common art of plowing which became one of the most remarkable agricultural machines of modern times. First called the screw-harrow, it is now known as the pulverizer. This machine was introduced on the great prairies of the West and for planting cotton in the South.

Col. Nichols was not born in Rutland and was not a resident of the town at the time of his death, but, he was emphatically a Rutland man. He came to Rutland at the age of 21, and was closely identified with Rutland interests until he went to Chicago in 1868. His attachment to Rutland did not cease on his removal to Chicago. He continued to cherish the same kindly sentiment toward his old home up to the day of his death. He found great pleasure in coming to Rutland ("coming home," as he called it) from time to time, to visit old friends and make new ones. It was a favorite pastime during all his residence in Rutland to take long strolls in the fields lying about the village and to predict the future growth and fix the future limits of the village and remark about what Rutland would some day be. Many of his predictions came true. He was sure that Center Street would some day connect Main Street and Merchants Row; that Court Street would be needed and consequently built; that a street (Strong's Avenue) would sooner or later be necessary for coming into the village from the south. He clearly foresaw the necessity for Grove Street as a means of approach to the village on the north, and during the struggle for that street

he was on the right side. In fact he was always on the side for improving and building up the town.

He could not be called a highly educated man, although his reading and study were extensive for one who led so busy a life, and his practical good sense was always ready to supplement any lack of book-lore. He mixed freely with all classes and grades of intellect, and generally was correct in his estimate of character. He enjoyed the company both of the cultivated and the uncultivated. A person only learned of his high sense of honor, of justice and of right by doing business with him.

When the post office building site was located he was one of the very few who did not think the site chosen was too far west or "down town." When he came to this town, communication between West Street and the "depot ground" was by means of a log thrown across the brook, which now runs in a sewer under Merchants Row. He lived to see the log removed and the best business street in Rutland take its place. And he, in connection with other enterprising men, erected one of the best blocks on West Street immediately east of the East Creek bridge, and for a long time the half-dozen houses went by the name of "Nichols Row." He built many other buildings in the village, and it is safe to say no man contributed more to the development of the town than he.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald July 20, 1933

City's Postoffice Dates Back to 1792

The United States government established the Rutland postoffice in 1792, with Frederick Hill as postmaster, but before that date, Vermont had a postoffice department of her own, and Anthony Haswell of Bennington was postmaster general.

Under his administration in the year 1784, there were five postoffices in the state: one at Rutland, one at Bennington, one at Brattleboro, one at Windsor and one at Newbury.

When the United States government established the postoffice in Rutland, it was located in a little red building north of the old County Courthouse on Main Street, on the site of Mrs. Ellen O'Keefe's residence and Mansfield Place.

In 1836 the office was moved into the County Courthouse, and in 1841 it was moved into the printing office and book store, which stood on Main Street, on the site of Mrs. J. B. Hollister's house on Center Street, but the building faced Main Street as there was no Center Street at that time. Afterward the office was moved to the town hall on Washington Street, and when the Federal building on Court Street [Rutland Free Library now] was finished in 1857, the office was moved into that building with John Cain as postmaster.

The receipts of the Rutland office, when it was first established in 1792, amounted to only \$39.71. Today money transactions at the office amount to millions of dollars.

The free delivery system was established in 1886, under the administration of the late L. W. Redington with six carriers. [Can anyone guess how many carriers as well as the clerical positions that are working in the present buildings?] The first downtown branch was established in 1889 under the administration of Fred A. Field, Sr. It was located in the north half of the J. C. Dunn store on Merchants Row [Later the Economy Store]. After a couple other moves it was located in the Gryphon building on West Street and became the main office. [Today's postoffice is located on West Street where Memorial Hall once stood.

Rutland has had 29 postmasters since the establishment of the office [as of July 1933]. Following are the names and dates of their appointments: Frederick Hill, 1793; Nathaniel Grove, 1796; David Smith, 1801; Samuel Prentiss, 1804; Thomas Hooker, 1805; William D. Smith, 1810; Reuben R. Thrall, 1822; Royal H. Waller, 1829; Thomas I. Ormsbee, 1836; Jesse Gove, 1841; Moses Hawks, 1842; Jonathan C. Dexter, 1844; Moses Hawks, 1845; Jonathan C. Dexter, 1845; Charles Burt, 1849; Josiah Pratt, 1853; John Cain, 1853; John M. Hall, 1860; Isaac McDaniels, 1860; Martin G. Everts, 1861; John R. Kilburn, 1870; Albert H. Tuttle, 1874; Lyman H. Redington, 1885; Fred A. Field, 1889; J.D. Hanrahan, 1893; John A. Sheldon, 1897; George F. Pease, 1911; P.M. Meldon, 1915; Charles H. West, 1922. In 1856, the office first became subject to appointment by the President of the United States.

Postal workers in the main post office in the Gryphon Building on West Street about 1915.

Tidbits from Then and Now

The month of October is time for the annual teacher's convention. How did it start? Who thought of it? Why did it come about? I think we have found the answer.

Rutland Weekly Herald, February 8, 1866

On January 3, 1866, the Vermont State Teachers' Association assembled in Brattleboro for its annual session. A very large number of the teachers and friends of education filled the hotels and private residences. Among the teachers, superintendents and friends of education were, J.S. Spaulding of Barre; Mr. Newland of Rutland High School; Rev. Mr. Abbott and Rev. J.B. Perry of Swanton; Henry Clark, Esq., of Poultney; Albert D. Hager of Proctorsville and J.S. Adams, Secretary of the Board of Education. General John W. Phelps of Brattleboro, Vice President of the Association, presided in the absence of the President, Rev. Dr. Newman of Poultney.

General Phelps reviewed the history of education in Vermont from the first planting of the colony down to the formation of the Board of Education in 1865, giving in detail the original ideas which moved the early settlers in placing the church and the school side by side in the infant colony. He then gave a sketch of the State Teachers' Association, reading from its first records and the Constitution. The first discussion relative to the formation of a state teacher's association took place at an educational meeting held at Chelsea in 1848. It was not formally organized until October 1850, at the meeting of the friends of education held at Montpelier.

The first meeting was thinly attended. At its second meeting an increased interest was manifested. Its third meeting was held at St. Johnsbury in 1852, and quite a large gathering assembled; but again it met discouragement in its fourth annual meeting held at Rutland in 1853. No interest was manifested by the citizens of Rutland. [Wouldn't you know!] On the arrival of its officers in town, no one knew where the meeting was to be held, or even of the existence of such an Association. Its President, the Rev. Worthington Smith, then President of the University at Burlington, together with the Chairman of the Executive Committee, succeeded in getting the use of the Court House by building a fire and sweeping it out. Some 10 or 12 citizens honored it with their presence to listen to addresses delivered by the Presidents of both the colleges in Vermont, and other teachers.

The fifth annual meeting at Windsor in 1854 was more successful than its fourth, both in interest and numbers. Its sixth session was held at St. Albans in 1855. The seventh at Barre in 1856. At that meeting the report was presented from a special committee appointed the previous year to devise and recommend the establishment of a Board of Education in Vermont. Moses Burbank of Ludlow was chairman of the committee who presented the plan, which was adopted, and the Association petitioned the Legislature at its next session, and the law was enacted, and a board of education established.

The next sessions were held at Northfield in 1857; Bellows Falls in 1858; Burlington in 1859; St. Johnsbury 1860; Middlebury 1861; Windsor 1862; Rutland 1863 [Hope interest was better]; Montpelier 1864; St. Albans 1865 and Brattleboro 1866.

The first president was Rev. John Wheeler, D.D. of Burlington followed by Rev. Worthington Smith, D.D. of St. Albans; Rev. Calvin Pease, D.D. of Burlington; Hiram Orcutt of Brattleboro; Rev. Pliny H. White of Coventry and Rev. John Newman, D.D. President of Ripley Female College at Poultney.

Both the State Board of Education and Green Mountain College have become fixtures on today's education scene. [Could we say "You've Come a Long Way, Baby?]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald June 6, 1850

Letter to the Editor

Mr. Editor:--

Sojourning for a few days in your town, I have taken occasion to inquire into your village prospects, and to note its general appearance as seen by the eye of a stranger. While your village is fast increasing in size and wealth, I regret to say, that its appearance in many respects would lead one unacquainted with it to suppose, that the case was directly opposite. True it is, you have plank walks, lately laid,--

South side of Center Street with plank sidewalks

but what are these compared with the slimy ditches and filthy corners with which your village abounds. [Remember this letter is in 1850 and the roads were of dirt and transportation by way of horse!] A small expense might remedy all these and give the place a wholesome appearance and I consider it a mark of boundless cupidity [greed for money] in your wealthier citizens that these nuisances are not abolished.

Your court house, if newly painted, might present a respectable appearance, but as it is it does not, as every stranger can testify; your common, which might be made one of the most beautiful in the State is surrounded by a fence that would disgrace any farmer in comfortable circumstances.

Rutland Courthouse destroyed by fire 1868

1857 view of fence that surrounded park

Your streets present the appearance (in many places) of a lumber yard, and every thing conspires to impress the fact on the stranger's mind that enterprise is unknown among you, and that ambition is a name.

The present location of City Hall was once the location of a lumber yard circa 1865

While your village wears this appearance, your rise must be slow, but appear as it might, the day would not be far distant when Rutland would become the center of not only the business, but of the beauty and fashion of Vermont. That it may become such is the fervent wishes of N.C.B.

Wonder who he was? Did he stay to help? Wouldn't he be surprised to know that Rutland became the railroad center of Vermont, visited and lived in by many notable personalities. With ongoing upgrading Rutland is still one of the most beautiful cities to be visited and lived in.

Tidbits from Then and Now

In 1858, Gen. H. Hugh Baxter, a self railroad magnate, built a mansion on Grove Street on what was once a sugar orchard and later a site of the Rutland Fair. The mansion called "Grove Hall" included 40 acres that extended from Pine Street to North Main Street and from Crescent Street to Garden Street [Library Ave.]. The property consisted of the Baxter mansion, greenhouses, a gardener's cottage, servants' quarters, stables and many surrounding building. Across the road from "Grove Hall" was Baxter's pond, a favorite spot for obtaining pond lilies. This spot [Drained of water I presume] was later the Baxter bowl, the site of many athletic events.

Gen. Baxter was born in Saxtons River in 1816, son of Judge Horace Baxter. He had only a grade school education when he went to work in Boston at the age of 16. For five years he was a clerk and later an accountant. He returned to Bellows Falls and entered the mercantile business, abandoning it to take a contract to grade the depot grounds at Bellows Falls. Other railroad contracts followed including one from the Bennington & Rutland railroad. From there he went to Ohio to fill a contract with the Cleveland, Norwalk & Toledo railroad. He was president of the New York Central Railroad, director of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, the Hannibal & St. Joseph Railway Company, the Panama Railway Company and the Continental National Bank of New York. He was founder and president of the Baxter National Bank, which stood on the site of the present Service Building. He was living in Rutland at the outbreak of the Civil War and was at one time Captain of the Rutland Light Guard.

Gen. Baxter came to Rutland in 1854 and shortly thereafter made a purchase of some quarries from William F. Barnes for \$20,000. Some of his friends believed he needed a guardian, but the purchase proved a splendid investment for all who were associated with him. The West Rutland property became known as the Rutland Marble Company. After a dispute with the Rutland County Bank, which he had helped establish, he withdrew his business interests from Rutland and made his home in New York. In 1863 he sold his marble company to a New York investor. He still retained his palatial home in Rutland as a summer home. Guests came and went from June through October. During his residence in Rutland, Gen. Baxter acquired a farm on the Creek Road, and it was known as "Maple Grove Farm." It was efficiently developed and was one of the showplaces of the country. The stock of thoroughbred cattle, sheep and horses gained a reputation as one of the most complete in the world.

General Baxter's brother, John, had a home on Cottage Street and developed a picturesque farm on Grove Street at the foot of Pine Hill. That property is now the Rutland Country Club.

After Gen. Baxter's death, his widow built the Baxter Memorial Library at the corner of Grove Street and Library Avenue. The building is now the Rutland Jewish Center. The palatial "Grove Hall" was purchased in 1927 by Frank M. Wilson and operated for several years as an exclusive summer hotel called "The Crestwood." Many Rutland residents can remember the iron dogs, which for many years stood on guard at the "Grove Hall" or "Crestwood" gates. During WWII these were donated to the scrap metal drive.

The property later became the site of Rutland High School and is now the site of Rutland Intermediate and Junior High School. Maple Village now sits at the site of the former Baxter pond/bowl on Pine Street.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, Thursday, July 12, 1883

The miners at the Vermont Copper Mining Company in Ely, VT, who were largely Cornishmen and Welshmen, had not been paid since April, and the company owed these miners some \$20,000. The affairs of the company had been badly managed and the Vermont Copper Company was facing a series of lawsuits. There had been no interest paid on the half million dollars for the payment of bonds. An indebtedness of \$120,000 had been doubled over the year as the company had expended nearly half a million dollars on machinery and buildings.

Saturday, July 7th had been set as the company's pay day, but the miners knew that the money would not be forthcoming. On Thursday, July 5th, the miners, numbering over 300, suspended work and took charge of the mining property. They seized 125 kegs of blasting powder and gave notice to the officers of the company that if their wages were not paid in full by Saturday evening, a torch would be applied to the company's buildings and the mine and mills would be blown up. The officers of the company fled the scene and the circumstances were so threatening that there was no other remedy against prospective violence and incendiarism but to appeal to Governor Barstow to call out the militia, in order to save the valuable property of the copper company from destruction.

On Friday, July 6th, Rutland received orders calling out the Kingsley Guard for service at the Ely mines, to assist in putting down the riot in progress among the miners. The telegraphic order received by Captain Kinsman from Gen. Peck, stated that he should bring his company on the New York train; fatigue uniforms, overcoats and one day's rations, for duty at the Ely mines. He should also bring three thousand rounds of ball ammunition.

Upon receipt of the telegrams, men of the guard were notified to report to the armory at once. They should be ready for duty; and notwithstanding there was only about an hour between the time orders were received before the New York train was due to leave, 38 men were in line and ready to take the 4:40 p.m. train, which Superintendent Burdett held a few minutes to enable the company to perfect their hasty arrangements. Upon the arrival of the troops at Middlebury, Captain Kinsman telegraphed an order to the ten members of the company left in Rutland, two having joined the company at Sutherland Falls, to report by the first train.

The Kingsley Guard was joined at Burlington by Gov. Barstow and staff, Gen. Peck, Col. Woodbury and Quartermaster Smith, and at Winooski by Col. Greenleaf. At Essex Junction a special train from St. Albans bearing the St. Albans Company was taken to Fairlee. The troops were to march eight miles that night and the prospects were that the soldiers would have to remain until Monday. Rumors prevailed that the miners were threatening to destroy the property of the whole town. The troops were eagerly awaited. The miners were armed with firearms and their wives with baskets of stones. Three or 400 rioters had possession of the town and all the company's powder. A priest from Montpelier had gone to Ely to endeavor to quell the trouble. The miners were paid in bills, which had been used as currency at a big discount. Five companies would come to the scene of the trouble as the Orange County Sheriff was the only law officer present at the scene of the trouble.

The troops arrived about 2 A.M. Saturday morning at Ely station. They were transported to within three miles of the mines in coke [coal] wagons and then marched the rest of the way, reaching the village about 6 A.M. The Bradford Company had gone cross country, coming into Ely from the opposite side of the village and securing the powder magazine, containing 150 kegs of the company's powder, which had been guarded by the miners.

As soon as the miners saw the position they were in, there was no desire to make trouble. Some people felt that had there not been more than one company of soldiers present, the miners would probably have engaged with them. A compromise was easily effected as the miners were willing to accept any terms that promised them their wages. The selectmen of the towns of Vershire and Fairlee finally agreed to take over the product of the mine and pay the men their wages in case the company still refused to pay them.

After matters had been settled to the satisfaction of the miners, the soldiers took it upon themselves to investigate and ascertain if there were actual cases of destitution in the families of the workmen. Many cases were found. Some houses were entirely destitute of anything to eat. In one family of six, the only morsel of food that the house contained was four potatoes; in another house a mother with a nursing baby had had nothing to eat for four days except dry bread and water. The soldiers distributed their rations among the needy. This created a good feeling between the miners and the troops and when the troops left the village the miners came to bid them good-bye and gave them three hearty cheers.

The troops left for their homes about 2 P.M. on Saturday. The Kingsley Guard arrived by special train in Rutland about 11:30 P.M. in good condition; notwithstanding they had had no sleep during their absence.

The Kingsley Guard was the Rutland section of the Vermont Guard. This was before the advent of the National Guard, but existed for the same purpose.

Tidbits from Then and Now

THEY'VE DONE IT AGAIN!

Rutland Daily Herald September 6, 1918

Red Sox Trim Cubs 1 to 0 in the First of World Series Games Opening of Post-Series Contests in Chicago is Attended by less Than 20,000 War Shows Its Effect on Game Interest in the Baseball Classic is Diminished, Even Size of Band is Reduced

September 5: One of the smallest crowds which ever turned out for a World's Series opening saw the Boston Red Sox of the American League, defeat the Cubs of the National League, 1 to 0 in an errorless game.

"Hippo" Vaughn and "Babe" Ruth fought it out all the way and although Ruth allowed six hits to his opponent's five, the breaks went to the invaders and they were correctly making confident claims to the world championship.

The game had been postponed a day because of rain. The effect of the war was everywhere, especially in the temper of the crowd which largely saw the home team drop the first game without a protest. There was no cheering during the contest, nor was there anything like the usual umpire baiting. Even the brass band was cut down to a war basis of 12 pieces. Then the electric scoreboard failed to rise to the occasion, as the old saying goes: "you can't tell the players without a score card", the portion of the board devoted to players failed to work.

Rutland Daily Herald September 7, 1918

World Series Games 50-50, Cubs Winning From Red Sox, 3 to 1 Winners Get Their Runs in Second Inning and Boston's Only Tally Made in Ninth Both Teams in Fighting Form

September 6: The Chicago Nationals put the World's Series on a 50-50 basis by defeating the Boston Americans, 3 to 1, in a good old-fashioned baseball game. Tyler pitching for Chicago, was the hero of the contest, for he projected a steady stream of bafflers and capped the climax by driving a single over second that scored two runs. All of Chicago's runs were made in the second. Boston's run came in a desperate and spectacular rally in the ninth.

The fighting blood of both teams was up from the beginning. Umpires were growled and snapped at; the crowd grew partisan and way down in the depths of the Boston bomb-proof, Knabe, Chicago coach and Wagner, Boston coach, got into a fight. The crowd learned of it when players and umpires made a dive into the dug-out and separated them.

Rutland Daily Herald September 9, 1918

Red Sox Win 2 to 1 in Fourth Inning

September 7: The Boston Red Sox came right back and won the third game of the World Series by a score of 2 to 1.

Vaughn pitched an air-tight ball except in the fourth inning when the Boston team scored enough runs to win.

Rutland Daily Herald September 10, 1918

Red Sox Win World Series Game from Cubs 3 to 2 Boston American Team in Lead of 3-1 for World Championship Flag 27 Players Take Part in Contest

The Red Sox have a lead of 3-1 in the Series and it is necessary for them to win only one more game to make them the war time baseball champions of the world.

Both teams departed from letter perfect baseball for the first time since their meeting and the explosion which resulted kept the fans in a furor of old time big series excitement. With two men on base and two strikes called against the "Babe" at a count of 3 and 2, Ruth swung into the ball savagely and it soared in an upward sweeping climb for right center field. Whiteman and McInnis scampered home and Ruth was heading for third like a big tank run wild. He beat the throw-in easily and enjoyed a quiet grin on third while the National league leaders tried to readjust themselves to the same chaotic conditions Ruth's bat has created in the American League all season.

Rutland Daily Herald September 11, 1918

Cubs Beat Sox When Strike on Field is Over Players Hold Up Game, Demanding Bigger Portion of Gate Receipts, But Save Day by Going Ahead

September 10: The contest was delayed for an hour by an unprecedented strike of the players of both teams for a readjustment of their share of the proceeds. Even before the start of the series the players were dissatisfied with the division of the money. The sharp falling off in attendance had made it unlikely that the players would get anywhere near the sum of \$2,000 each as they had asked. When it seemed as if the players and representatives of the National commission were hopelessly deadlocked, Harry Hooper, the Red Sox Captain, called the turn. He spoke on behalf of both teams:

"We will play, not because we think we are getting a fair deal, because we are not, but we'll play for the sake of the game for the sake of the public which has always given us its loyal support and for the sake of the wounded soldiers and sailors who are in the grandstand waiting for us."

The crowd had waited over an hour with the band playing patriotic music to entertain and acknowledge the wounded service men invited to the game. Former Mayor John F. Fitzgerald enlightened the crowd as to the cause of the delay and when the teams came on to the field they were greeted with cheers as well as boos.

Rutland Daily Herald September 12, 1918

**Red Sox Winners of World Series; Defeat Cubs, 2 to 1
Boston American Team Now Has Record of Capturing Championship Honors on Six Occasions**

Taps for professional baseball for the duration the war was sounded at Fenway Park when the Boston American League pennant bearers won the first war scarred baseball championship of the world by defeating the Chicago National League titleholders in the sixth game of the series by a score of 2 to 1. This gives the Red Sox a record of six victories for the overlordship of the baseball world in as many starts and as the Boston National won the championship in 1914 it brings to Boston seven world titles.

The Red Sox scampered off the field with undisguised elation. They had played the game "for the game's sake" and had won a title in which there was more of honor than cash.

Did anyone notice that this country is again at war as the Red Sox "DO IT AGAIN?"

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 26, 1947

New Dairy Will Open

Completion of North Main St. Building Announced; One Department Starts Today

After a year of construction, the modern new dairy building on North Main Street, owned by Seward's Dairy, Inc., has now been completed and one of its three departments, the dairy bar, will be open for business today, it was announced last night.

The two other phases of the business, the milk bottling and processing department, which includes the pasteurizing, homogenizing and bottling of milk, and the ice cream freezing department will be opened as soon as essential parts of machinery, not yet delivered, are received from the manufacturers.

The plant, believed to be one of the best in this section of the country, has every modern innovation in equipment and installations, even to ultra violet ray germicidal lamps which are designed to render the air where the dairy products are processed, 90 per cent pure. All stainless steel equipment is used and milk will be untouched by human hands from the time it arrives in the plant until it is ready for delivery in the modern trucks.

The corporation operating the business is comprised of Roland Q. Seward of East Wallingford, who has been in the dairy business for a number of years, as president and treasurer; Charles W. Spencer of Rutland, vice president; Paul Van Zant of Rutland, formerly affiliated with Abbott's Dairies of Philadelphia, vice president in charge of sales; Henry E. Seward, Sr., of Rutland, vice president in charge of mechanical operations and Frank A. Adams, formerly of the Whiting milk Company of Boston, comptroller.

The building was designed by Ernest L. Erickson, Rutland architect and the engineering details were in charge of John M. Staveley of the Creamery Package Manufacturing Company of Boston, working in conjunction with the management. The corporation acted as its own contractor.

The outer front of the two-story structure is of speedwell tile and the rounded corners of the building are of glass block, while sides and rear are constructed of cinderblock. All of the processing rooms are finished in glazed ceramic tile while the refrigerating and tempering rooms are insulated with four inch and eight inch depths of cork.

The first floor contains the dairy bar, finished in maroon and cream, with stainless steel modern equipment, a circular bar with two bays and stools, to accommodate 40 persons, as well as two serving windows for the convenience of those who wish to remain in cars, or be served from the outside of the building. There are parking facilities for 75 cars.

Also on the first floor are the bottle washing room, the laboratory with complete equipment for all scientific means of insuring purity of the dairy products; a low temperature hardening room for freezing ice cream; a tempering room for regulating the temperature of ice cream in preparation for serving; a refrigeration room for storage of bottled milk and other dairy products; and a boiler and machinery room. The basement has large storage space and garages in the rear of the building allowing for the storage of six new modern trucks.

The second story, finished in pine paneling and equipped with modern furnishings contain a general office, a private office, the drivers' room, rest rooms and storage rooms.

Milk for the creamery is to be obtained from Valley View Creamery in East Wallingford, a collecting station and processing plant.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, August 8, 1923

Natives Find Ways of Pedestrian Hard

They Amble Not, Neither Do They Run But Their Gaits Are Passing Strange

All Rutland is divided into two parts: the mountainous and the flat. The inhabitants of Rutland and its sections are known by their gaits and those from the hilly regions are the most affected of all.

The inhabitants from the streets that incline badly upwards have a very pronounced walk. Their head is seen long before the rest of their anatomy. This is due to two reasons. Constant climbing of hills causes what is known as a sway back which throws the head decidedly forward. Then the people from West, Center and other similar steep regions have the habit of thrusting forward their heads in order to get the thinking part of their bodies to a spot long before their feet can reach the place of interest. This gives them a chance to observe if anything worth seeing is going on. If not, their cerebellums telegraph their pedal extremities to carry them to more interesting parts of the town.

The people from the streets that are on the level have a more erect carriage, but are at once spotted from a habit of dragging their basal portions. Their shoes wear out more rapidly and their feet are much flatter. This is due to the fact that their feet are always in flat places and thus they grow immediately flat-footed and drag their feet, since they have nothing to climb and thus no impetus to raise their feet.

There is another mode of walk in Rutland. It is a rolling one, that resembles the long-time sailor or the seasick shore man. It is adopted especially by those whose feet are used only to the rugs of limousines, and to whom walking is the supreme sacrifice.

The "Flapper" walk and debutante slouch that the young Rutland poseurs [a person who poses] carry off is not original but gleaned from the more striking and extreme fashion plates. It resembles a worm crawling a telegraph pole.

The plowed field walk is used by many. Citizens who have been run into and nearly injured at crowded hours on Merchants Row can describe the method that these "of the world but not in it" hikers employ. [They just plow ahead].

Various walks also display industries in which their owners are engaged. The humped-back mode designates brick-layers, furnace owners (and caretakers) and overburdened Rutland students. The stiff-kneed walk is used by the professional class who are taught it by long hours of confinement at the office.

Even the sidewalks have a great influence on the Rutland people and it is reported that in towns far distant, Rutland people are recognized because of their absent-minded habit of stepping over the cracks, for by their walk shall the citizens of Rutland be known.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 24, 1902

CHRISTMAS CHEER

Hundreds of Destitute Families Made Glad by the Humane Society

Hundreds of hearts, both old and young, were filled with the happy spirit of the holiday season yesterday as the result of the Christmas tree and dinner held at the Young Men's Christian Association rooms under the care and direction of the Rutland Humane Society. It was the greatest success of any like affair ever held in this city.

The guests of the society were poverty-stricken families, most of them averaging 10 children each, coming from the mountains of Shrewsbury, Mendon Notch, Chittenden, Ira, Pittsford, Center and West Rutland. They ranged in age from infancy to infinity and were of all conditions and sizes. Seldom if ever before has such an indescribable medley of shabby clothes, and in some cases even tattered rags, been collected with humanity within them in Rutland as that gathered at the association rooms. Too late to remedy it, the society learned that at least 20 children, who were expected, had been unable to come because they lacked clothing.

The wealth of variety in expression and personal characteristics was as vast as that of clothes and color. There were little tots with prematurely aged, weasened [thin, pointed] faces and hard, tired eyes and heavy shambling [clumsy walk] girls and boys with almost infantile simplicity written on their countenances. Here were broken-down mothers, who looked as though they never smiled and took everything with the indifference of stoics. On the other hand, one saw at rare intervals a gray and wrinkled father or grandfather whose expressions of gratitude for every little favor were of the most profuse.

Such was the gathering, nearly 200 in all, which the members of the society took into the gymnasium about 11 o'clock and after clothing the little ones throughout, gave the mothers or elder sister who had them in charge an extra lot of clothes to take home.

When about 1 o'clock the society's guests were finally ushered into the dining room, it was a sight to behold to see the glistening eyes and watch the pleased expression which settled over the faces of the guests. When the last guests had been given all they wished to eat, one little chap who was urged to take another plateful expressed, "I think I could bite off some more, but I know I couldn't swallow it."

The little ones were then led to the gymnasium, where the grand climax of the day awaited them--a Christmas tree with its full regalia of popcorn, tinsel paper and other glittering decorations. Henry F. Field briefly told the story of the Christ child and the significance of Christmastide. Santa Claus then appeared on the scene and impartially distributed the gifts, a fully dressed doll to every girl and iron toys for the boys in addition to handkerchiefs, books, ribbons and other useful and ornamental gifts. The part of Santa Claus was done by Harley

Caverly. The dolls were dressed for the occasion by the women inmates of the house of correction.

Among the guests was a woman with 11 children who lived nine miles from the city and had not been to the city in eight years. There were other families of 12 or 13 children discovered by the society members in their search for deserving families.

The Salvation Army also was a major donor of gifts for the needy in early 20th Century Rutland

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 27, 1931

COUNTRY CLUB WILL PLAY INDOOR GOLF

Players in First Round Draw in 36-Hole Matches Are Announced

Following is the first round draw for match play at 36 holes in an indoor golf tournament to be played by members of the Rutland Country Club at the Paramount Tom Thumb Golf course in the automobile building at the Rutland fairgrounds:

Dr. Charles H. Swift vs. S.W. Hopkins; H.B. Whittemore vs. Dr. J.E. O'Brien; Fred A. Field, Jr., vs. Henry W. Clement; Theodore P. Roberts vs. Dr. W.R. Pond; Leslie D. Pierce, Sr., vs. George A. Harman, Sr.; Sheldon Hopkins vs. A.C. Marshall; Tyler W. Earle vs. Dr. T.A. Norton; Robert C. Boynton vs. Stephen C. Dorsey; Dr. H.H. Yarrington vs. Fred C. Roberts; Judge James A. Merrill vs. J.J. Dervin; John J. Stebbins vs. W.H. Farwell; Gordon Landon vs. W.R. Pond, Jr.; W.H. Dunn vs. Robert C. Marshall; A.B. Porter vs. Dr. Harry R. Ryan; Frederick S. Chaffee vs. Lloyd E. Aldrich; Francis R. Burnhan vs. W.H. Williams.

January 31, 1931

Winners of first round 36-hole match play this week in the indoor golf tournament: H.B. Whittemore, Jr.; Henry W. Clement, L.D. Pierce, Sr.; T.W. Earle; S.C. Dorsey; Fred C. Roberts; W.H. Farwell; A.H. Porter; Frederick S. Chaffee and Francis R. Burnham.

February 6, 1931

L.D. Pierce, Sr., last night defeated Frederick S. Chaffee, 12 and 1 in the final of an indoor golf tournament. The match was close all the way.

[and not to be outdone]

There will be a tournament starting Monday or Tuesday for women members of the Country Club. Entrants will phone entries to James Murray, Rutland Country Club pro, or proprietors of the Paramount Tom Thumb course.

February 17, 1931

Women Golfers to Play Indoor 36-Hole Tourney

First round drawings in a 36-hole match play indoor golf tournament for women players of the Rutland Country Club at the Paramount Tom Thumb course at the fair grounds follow:

Mrs. J.A. Merrill vs. Mrs. L.B. Noble; Mrs. E. Perley Smith vs Mrs. T.W. Earle; Mrs. C.H. Maurice vs. Mrs. B.L. Stafford; Mrs. F.C. Roberts vs. Mrs. H.H. Kinsman; Mrs. F.A. Field, Jr.,

vs. Mrs. F.H. Burnham; Mrs. W.H. Farwell vs Mrs. W.E. Burditt; Mrs. G.A. Harman vs. Mrs. O.M. Jeffords; Mrs. W.H. Williams vs. Mrs. S.W. Carder.

March 10, 1931

Mrs. George N. Harman and Mrs. Herman H. Kinsman will meet in the finals of an indoor golf tournament for women members of the Rutland Country Club tomorrow afternoon at 5 o'clock.

March 13, 1931

Mrs. George N. Harman defeated Mrs. Herman H. Kinsman 2 and 1 yesterday afternoon in the final match of an indoor golf tournament at the Paramount Tom Thumb course. Another notation stated that another men's tournament would be starting on this date.

Never underestimate the possibilities of miniature golf!

Tidbits from Then and Now

November is generally the month when all the new cars come on the market. In this day and age we have so many brands and types of cars to choose from that there always seems to be a better one just as soon as we choose the one to buy.

Back in 1905 [100 years ago!] cars were just beginning to appear. At the time, horses outnumbered them. Cars had to be cranked to keep running and they were as frightening to pedestrians as they were to horses.

In 1905 there were 373 cars registered in the state of Vermont. Rutland had 30 of those registered to local residents. The following is a list of registration numbers, the car owner, their occupation and residence.

- 47 Fred R Patch, President of Patch Manufacturing Company, h. 57 Chestnut Ave.
- 48 Timothy A. Reardon, Foreman machinist at Patch's, bds. 117 River St.
- 56 R.W. Goodrich, Horse dealer, h. 54 N. Main St.
- 69 Vermont Marble Co., Proctor
- 73 George S. Haley, Manager & purchasing agent, Rutland City Elec. Co. h. 60 S. Main St.
- 91 A.C.H. Bachand, Engineer cold storage, h. 59 Crescent St.
- 93 M.A. Britton, Bicycle repair at Clark & Matthews, h. 119 State St.
- 118 Charles A. Matthews, Clark & Matthews, h. 62 Forest St.
- 119 Wayne S. Clark, Clark & Matthews, h. 44 Clarendon Ave., W. Rutland
- 120 Wallace W. Nichols, Rochester Clothing Co., h. 52 Prospect St.
- 121 Erwin E. Keyes, E.D.Keyes & Co., h. 77 Grove St.
- 140 Harold Warren Ross, Foreman VMCo. h. 58 So. Main St.
- 157 George T. Chaffee, F. Chaffee & Sons, h. 16 So. Main St.
- 158 Newman K. Chaffee, F. Chaffee & Sons/ Tres. Patch Mfg. Co., h. 162 So. Main St.
- 186 Brown & Garrett, Jewelers at 11 Merchants Row
- 191 Charles A. Willard, employed Scale Works, bds. 38 Elm St.
- 237 Raymond F. Russell, RFD, Milk dealer, h. Main St. Mill Village
- 247 Albert Columbe, Machinist, h. 50 Howe St.
- 271 Sumner W. Childs, [no information]
- 283 Percival W. Clement, Pres. Herald & Globe Assoc. h. "Brookside"
- 284 Percival W. Clement, [same]
- 285 John H. Frenier, J.H. Frenier & Son, Manufacturer of Sand pumps & feeding machinery
- 287 Erwin White, Jeweler, h. 6 Main St., W. Rutland
- 288 Edward F. Hassey, lawyer, h. 105 Robbins St.
- 303 Vermont Marble Co., Proctor
- 308 John N. Woodfin, Pres. Lincoln Iron Works/Pres Marble Savings Bank, h. 45 Pleasant St.
- 320 Martin L. Gleason, Livery stable h. 22 E. Washington St.
- 321 Samuel M. Willson [Wilson], Coal agent, D&H Co. h. 91 Grove St.
- 339 Harry L. Willard, Merchant, bds. 38 Elm St.
- 340 John A. Mead, Pres. Scale Works & Pres. Baxter Bank, h. 36 Washington cor. Prospect.

By 1907 the number of cars had grown so that Rutland had 57 cars and the State of Vermont had 860.

Today some families have two or more cars and company cars are supplied to workers. Then there are rental cars and taxies and all sorts of trucks, busses and even 4-wheelers!

Many of the same rules were in place as they are today. The speed limit on Center Street at that time was 5 mph. A very prominent local gentleman had to appear in court for going 8 mph on Center Street.

Come to think of it, now there are more cars than cows in Vermont!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald December 16, 1904

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

With the zero weather of the last few days as a constant reminder that Christmas and mid-winter are almost upon them, the residents of this city are pushing things a little harder and faster these days to finish the housework or business duties early enough to afford time for a little holiday shopping each day. The result of this is apparent in the business streets and stores which are unusually lively during the afternoon and evening.

The holiday seige of the gift counters is about to begin, the vanguard of Christmas bargain hunters being already in sight. The leading merchants of this city are aware of this fact and have made every preparation to satisfy the wants of the holiday forces. The most particular cannot fail to find the object of his fondest wishes among the extensive stocks of goods displayed in the leading stores of the city. While the holiday hustle is just beginning, the crush of custom which annually comes just preceding Christmas is not yet on, and the variety to be selected from is as yet unbroken.

Charles Sterns, of the dry goods firm of Charles Sterns & Co., said:"We try to make this store, as far as possible, a place where people can supply their entire wants, be it useful, ornamental, luxuries or necessities. If anyone will come here and look through our three floors, we are sure they will find something adapted to their wants. We are daily putting in additional help. Prompt and courteous service will be our watch word for the Christmas shopper."

Nelson's 5&10 Cent Store on Center Street is crowded with an almost endless assortment of goods suitable for Christmas presents. In speaking of his business W.F. Nelson said: "Unlike Pandora, who opened her box of troubles and human ills on the world, Santa Claus visits us every 12 month to set free the loving hearts and generous impulses of all mankind.

"Believing that we are about to experience a holiday season of unusual activity, and anticipating that a general and widespread observance of Christmas and the holidays will bring with it a great demand for gifts of every description, we feel that we have a holiday message of importance to holiday shoppers and gift makers in general[that] can be condensed into five short words, 'tis simply this: 'We have what you want.' ... And now with the utmost cordiality we invite you to call and see this beautiful display of tempting holiday good."

Louis A. Miner, proprietor of the drug store at the corner of Merchants Row and Center Street said:... " have the most complete stock of military brushes, cigar cases, gentlemen's travelling cases, shaving sets, letter cases, drinking cups and in fact everything in this line to please. For ladies I have a large stock of swell hand bags, card cases, pocket books, mirrors, toilet sets, imported stag horn manicure sets, puff, powder and soap boxes and the most elegant line of imported and domestic perfumes ever shown in this city."

R.W. Waterman, the crockery dealer at No. 27 Merchants Row said: ...“I have the largest and best line of crockery that I have ever had to the enthusiasm of my clerks, who are very much interested in their work and try to make everyone welcome whether purchasers or visitors. My fancy line is made up largely of imported goods from Japan, Germany, Austria and France...I also carry a large line of silverware and cut glass, probably the largest to be found in the city. I make a specialty of Rogers Brothers, 1847 flatware.”

Imagine, this is all happening on December 16th! For years everyone has planned on starting all the hustle and bustle of decorating and shopping right after Thanksgiving. Did you notice that this year things have moved along even faster? All the stores were decorated and bubbling over with all sorts of holiday cheerfulness well before Thanksgiving.

While celebrating your own special holiday, don't forget to keep in mind the young men and women who are away from their loved ones.

Peace and pleasant holidays!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 1, 1945

Santa's Delayed Visit Changes Lad's Outlook

"I always thought he was a phony ... and this cooks it!" last week scorned a disappointed 12 year-old member of one of the Rutland County families whom Santa Claus somehow overlooked on December 25. Yesterday however tears of humiliation – and joy – filled his eyes when St. Nicholas made a belated trip and delivered what was termed by the mother as "the finest stack of Christmas presents the family had ever witnessed."

Tipped off last week that four families in the county would have no Christmas, Rutlanders in a few days filled four cartons with gifts for the 24 youngsters in those families. Reports indicate that these children never dreamed that Santa Claus could be so good to anyone, all of them having received warm clothing, shoes and many toys.

One woman, hearing about their grand Christmas, expressed the sentiment that there always seemed to be generous people ready and willing to help others when the need was made known. One of the contributors to the boxes mentioned that she was once a small girl on the inside of a tenement window, likewise depending on the kindness of her townsfolk.

Sixty years later and the people of Rutland are still just as generous to those in need.

On the more serious side of the picture of what was taking place in Rutland on January 1, 1945:

All Drives Supported

In a year in which thoughts of their loved ones away at war dominated the lives of most Rutland families, residents of the city continued their backing of all war supporting activities, over-subscribing the city's Community Chest and War fund, two War bond campaigns and the annual Red Cross roll call.

Post-war plans and measures designed to keep the city the kind of place the servicemen want to come home to were given much official and private attention. These included recreation plans, revamping of the real estate tax structure, a hangar and other improvements at Rutland airport and a proposal for bond issues to make post-war jobs available. These were well into or beyond the "blue print" stage.

Here we are on January 1, 2005, in the midst of a war dominating the lives of most of Rutland's families. Let's all hope that 2005 will bring the turmoil to an end and families will welcome a new year in peace.

Tidbits from Then and Now

BRIDGING THE RAILROAD

In early 1892 the Town of Rutland voted to build an iron foot bridge from the foot of Washington Street over the railroad tracks to Franklin Street. Plans and specifications for the bridge were made by Chappell and Burke and paid for by the Town. At this time the selectmen were unable to secure an agreement about the construction with the Central Vermont Railroad. By May of 1893 [after Rutland became a city], a petition was circulated asking the Board of Aldermen to construct the foot bridge. Alderman Stearns requested the plans from Chappell and Burke, but they refused as they had made them for the Town and were not the property of the City. There would be a \$5.00 fee if the City wanted them.

On September 7th, there was more talk about the Washington Street foot bridge, as the closing of the Landon crossing approached. [Landon crossing was Freight Street that ran over the tracks from Evelyn Street to Union Street]. Mayor Mead said that there was no question as to the necessity of the bridge and the board appreciated the fact that it should be in place by the time the tunnel [passageway under track on Pine St. by Duffy Oil Co.] is opened and the Landon crossing done away with. A local official of the railroad told the Mayor that the railroad company would make an agreement not to require the removal of the bridge for 10 years.

The bridge contemplated was to be 444 feet long, with two spans of 60 feet, two of 50, two of 40 and two of 72 feet. It would be 20 feet high over the train tracks. The walkway would be 9 feet wide. Alderman Robbins suggested that a better location for the bridge would be from the foot of Center Street to Furnace Street, north of the railroad switches and buildings. More people could be accommodated at this location.

On June 28, 1894 the contract for the construction of the foot bridge across the railroad yard was signed. The Vermont Construction Co. of St. Albans was selected from the 11 bids submitted. They agreed to have the bridge completed by October. On September 14th the construction company completed the survey for the new foot bridge. Everything was ready for the masons to begin work, and the laying of the foundation for the abutments was started. By October the masonry work on the stone abutments for the bridge were finished. In November bridge builders arrived in Rutland, but were sent to Sherburne to build a bridge. In December work began in earnest on the foot bridge and several towers were set in position in the center of the railroad yard. Work was delayed several days because of a lack of material and the foreman sent to St. Albans for more men to complete the bridge at the earliest date possible.

In January of 1895, it was discovered that an engineer's miscalculation on the work done in the fall had placed the foundation stones 6" too close together and needed to be redone before the abutment could be placed in position. The work was again delayed a few days because of the lack of materials. Several men were laid off at this time and then rehired when the materials arrived. On January 23rd, the stringers for the stairs leading up to the foot bridge in the railroad yard near the repair shop were put in position. These stairs would be used by the men in the railroad shops while going to and from work. [These stairs consisted of at least 30 steps up on the east side and 30 steps down the west side of the foot bridge!]. The foot bridge soon came to

be called "The first elevated railroad in Vermont." Because of a storm, the workmen were obliged to abandon work on completing the stairs, but on February 12th, the foot bridge over the railroad tracks was completed and opened to the public.

The iron foot bridge was contracted with the Vermont Construction Co. with the understanding that it should be completed by October 1, 1894. The work had been delayed by the contractors not being able to get the iron as soon as needed. The location of the bridge had to be changed from the south to the north end of the depot in order to secure sufficient space between the tracks to place the piers. On February 12th, the bridge was finished and by actual count more than 500 people crossed it daily.

Up the steps and across 444 feet to get to the other side of the tracks

According to the City Report for the year ending December 31, 1904 the foot bridge over the railroad was inspected and condemned about the last of July, and a little later the east approach and span were ordered taken down within sixty days. The street committee engaged the railroad company to take down the span and approach and they were taken down and piled up in the yard and the bridge was out of commission. The bridge had never been an accommodation to but very few people. Those who were very strong and robust and not too corpulent could go over the bridge, but people who were not very strong, and especially women with baby carriages, had to go around by River Street or by the way of Pine Street .

Sometimes "good ideas" aren't practical!

Tidbits from Then and Now

In the early part of the 19th Century, the falls at Center Rutland were owned by William and Richard Gookin, brothers, who came from New Hampshire. During the Revolution this falls was called Mead's Falls as James Mead, the first settler of Rutland was the original owner.

The Gookin brothers not only owned the falls, but a large part of the land occupied by Center Rutland. They were ambitious to become manufacturers and built an extensive paper mill on the site. They also ran a store subsequently occupied by Shedd & Son. [Subsequently occupied by Louis Rosen--see photo in Rutland Quarterly calender for 2005]. The paper mill at one time furnished the paper on which the *Herald* was printed. Richard Gookin, who aided in the development of industries in Center Rutland, died at an early age. His wife was Mary, daughter of Maj. William Fay, who for many years the owner and editor of the *Herald*.

George Beaman, son-in-law of William Gookin wrote of him: "By the purchase, in the early years of the century, of the falls still bearing his name and a large portion of the land on which is built the village on the north and east side of the creek, and by the erection of a sawmill, gristmill, paper mill, large carding machine and cloth-dressing establishment and the store now occupied by J.W. Shedd, and by the introduction of such mechanic shops as were then deemed necessary to a country village, Mr. Gookin gave an impulse to the business of the place that it has never entirely lost."

William Gookin sold two-thirds of the paper mill and machinery to his son Hiram and Ambrose L. Brown for eight thousand dollars in 1836. About 1838 a new firm for making paper, selling books and printing, bought the mill. The proprietors were William Fay, owner of the *Rutland Herald*, Ambrose L. Brown, James Everson and H.T. White [possibly Fay's son-in-law]. On November 18, 1843 fire struck the mill area. The paper mill, the gristmill, a small house and a marble mill located in the gristmill were all destroyed, along with five hundred reams of paper. All that remained were the heavy stone walls of the mill basements. Years later the Vermont Marble Company erected a blacksmith shop where the paper mill once stood. James B. Porter and Wallace W. Slason bought the larger part of the remainder of the Gookin real estate. Wallace Slason was married to William Gookin's daughter Annette.

In 1838, the store property passed into the hands of E. Pierpoint and William Y. Ripley. John W. Cramton subsequently bought the property and manufactured and sold tinware there.

Today many people remember the falls as Mead's Falls, but on occasion you will hear the falls referred to as "Gookin's Falls."

#291
complete

Rutland Courier, Friday, December 9, 1859

In as much as the new Gas works will go into operation, and the dwellings, stores and offices of this village, (as far as the pipes are laid down) will be lighted for the first time tomorrow evening, or Monday evening, we ask our people to read attentively the follow communication from a gentleman connected with the introduction of gas into this village...

Gas is superior to every other material as a light-giving agent, not only on account of the brilliancy of its effects, and cheapness, but because it is safer, economizes time and labor and is more easily managed. The lighting and putting out of gas lights is the work only of an instant. No sparks or impurities are blown or otherwise scattered and consequently, there is no risk of damaging or setting fire to clothes or furniture, as so often happens with lamps or candles. The time usually occupied in cleaning candlesticks and trimming lamps, is no trifling matter, to say nothing of the dirt, the disagreeable odors and the waste consequent thereon.

The management of gas is perfectly simple and easy. All that is really necessary to be known about turning it on and adjusting the supply and turning it off to insure perfect safety, might be acquired, by practice, in a few minutes....

It is sometimes said that gas is injurious to the eyes. A powerful light imprudently used, or improperly directed, might be expected to be hurtful, but in that case light from oil, tallow, wax, or turpentine would be equally objectionable as that of gas. To say that a good light is injurious and that an indifferent or bad one is not so, is about as reasonable as to affirm that the light of the moon is more useful than that of the sun, or that it is easier and more congenial to the feelings to read, or write, or work by fire light than by that from candles. There is no reason why gas should be wasted or used extravagantly, any more than the most ordinary articles of food or clothing, or fuel, should be thrown away or misapplied. This is a part of domestic arrangements which people should observe. During the cold season, meters in a condition exposed to frost, should be well surrounded with old woolen cloths, straw or other non-conducting materials. An early and reasonable attention to these rules will relieve the consumer of any concerns.

Rutland Weekly Globe, May 23, 1873

The people of Rutland, like those of all enterprising and thriving towns, are large patrons and consumers of gas as a light and have in their midst one of the very best gas works in the state.

The "Rutland Gas Light Co." so called, was organized some 15 years ago. Their works were built by H. Q. Hawley and were run some seven years when they were destroyed by fire; the works were rebuilt and again burned a few years later. The gas made by the old company was manufactured from rosin and afterward from petroleum, but little profit was made in the operation. In October 1867, the People's Gas Light Co. was organized and works were built upon the old site on Union Street and operations began in November of that year. They have buildings of brick, purifying house and retort house, built by direction of E. Gustione of New Hampshire. The officers of the company include, President Z.V.K. Willson; Clerk & Treasurer and George A. Tuttle. The directors are Z.V.K. Willson, J.C. Dunn, G.A. Tuttle, Charles Sheldon and J.W. Cramton. They have a capital stock of \$60,000 and are in a good situation financially. The works are managed by superintendent Mr. N.C. Dye, who is assisted by three men. An examination of

the works is interesting to any observer and develops the fact that they are just what they should be and are well managed.

The company, at present, has about 300 consumers and their works are capable of making 30,000 feet of gas daily. The two gasometer rooms are heated by steam, so that no fire is used near the gasometers. The company has some four miles of main pipe running through the streets. A six inch pipe extends to the Berwick House and a four inch pipe to the Bardwell House. The rest are mostly three inches. They also have over three miles of service pipe. About 700 tons of coal is used yearly and there is about 100 barrels of tar made during the same time. The coke that is manufactured is used for fuel and some 700 barrels of it were sold last year.

The company is about to erect a new coal house of wood on the grounds, to be thirty by forty feet in dimensions and the whole capable of containing 1000 tons of coal or more, which, together with the present buildings, will make a gas establishment not excelled for completeness and excellence in Vermont.

When we bought our house in 1961, we discovered that we had "live" gas lines running into the house that had to be blocked off. There was no record to be found that there was a gas line running up to our street.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 5, 1892

Rutland is soon to have another fine church added to its many handsome churches and public buildings. It is the new church being built by the French Catholics on Lincoln Avenue.

The foundation walls are well under way and the contract calls for a completion by the middle of June. The work is being done by Casimer Douglas.

The church will stand just north of the present church and will front on Lincoln Avenue. The priest's house, which will be moved, now stands about where the center of the church will be. It is to be of the modern gothic style of architecture and will be constructed entirely of rock-faced blue marble. The architect of the church is G.H. Guernsey of Montpelier. Rev. Father Proulx hopes to get the walls up and the roof on the church before next winter, but thinks it will take about two years to fully complete the building. The grounds in front of the church will be graded with a gentle slope toward Lincoln Avenue and broad steps put in near the sidewalk. When Rev. Father Proulx's plans are carried out Rutland will have a French Catholic church second to none in the state.

August 29, 1892. The ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new French Catholic church was performed yesterday. There was a large crowd of people of all denominations present. After a short ceremony Bishop Michaud stepped up to the platform and began with these remarks in English: "The building of a church edifice, in keeping with the times in which we are living, is a great undertaking. It requires the skill of a mason, and the experience of him who knows how to handle a trowel and mix mortar. That it may be a structure worthy of a good workman, and worthy of those who have sacrificed much to see the work carried on to its completion, every part of the work must be skillfully done. ...It should, moreover, be a structure of beauty because it is being erected in this town, ...a town that is known the world over, not because of its railroads, nor because it is beautifully nestled here at the foot of the Green Mountains, but world renowned for its great marble productions. This is what has made Rutland noted. The Vermont Marble Company, the greatest marble company in the world with its great marble king, Mr. Proctor, at the head, has contributed to the fame of this town. But it was Rutland with its great natural resources that made Proctor and not he the town.

February 9, 1893. Father Proulx said that he had arranged to begin raising the roof of the new church edifice by April 1. The contractors would continue work on the church until it is finished, which must be by May 1894.

August 30, 1893. The framework for the spire of the new French Catholic church on Lincoln Avenue and the large staging around it, were blown to the ground shortly after 8 o'clock yesterday morning. The damage was heavy, but, fortunately, there was no loss of life. The velocity of the wind had increased greatly during the night and the structure swayed under its pressure, but it was thought that it would withstand the gale. The foreman went up the ladder where he thought the first joint of the spire should be bolted and the men followed. John Wright, Frank Gilman and Frank Laport bolted down the spire at its base and finished about 10 minutes

before the crash came. The workmen were in the shop at the rear of the old church when a cracking of timber was heard and the spire, torn from its base, toppled over, tearing down the staging as it fell. The resistance of the staging caused the heavy timbers to break where they had been spliced, and turning upon end, they crashed down upon the house occupied by Rev. Father Proulx. Three of the large timbers pierced the roof and went through the dining room in which Father Proulx was seated and imbedded themselves in the ground in the cellar. Several smaller timbers were driven through the roof and nearly every room was wrecked by falling timber. The entire south side of the house was covered with broken boards and scantling [small timbers] and the lawn about the house and the residence of Mrs. Meldon, next door, was torn up. In the priest's house, the plaster was torn off and floors and ceilings broken in. There was a big hole in the roof in the center of the building and the chimney was knocked over by the flying timber. That the workmen who had been employed on the spire escaped is thought to be miraculous.

Rev. Father Proulx was seated in the dining room about three feet from where the heavy timbers passed through the house into the cellar. The shock affected him greatly and it was several minutes before he could speak. Crowds of people visited the scene and the ruins were cleared away before night, but the house will probably never be rebuilt. [A house and lot at 13 Nichols Street was purchased for a rectory on September 28, 1894].

In spite of the setback, the church was completed and the dedication was celebrated by a Pontifical High Mass by Bishop Michaud on July 4, 1894.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, July 16, 1925

Economy Store To Open in Rutland

A new department store will take its place in the ranks of Rutland's business houses with the opening of the Economy Store at 154 West Street in the building formerly occupied by Carl Sawyer's furniture emporium.

The structure has been completely remodeled and refurnished and will add a metropolitan touch to the city's business section in that it belongs to the type of condensed merchandizing establishment that is common in large communities where space for building is not so extensive and so easily secured as in smaller towns.

Another touch in the makeup of the new store which is a distinct contribution to the progress of merchandizing in Rutland is the unusually large window space which has been made available by the fitting of the building with large windows covering almost the entire front of the structure on its three floors.

Window dressing will be made an art in the new Economy Store. The window displays, which will be changed frequently, are to be arranged under the guidance of an expert.

The main floor will display yard goods, men's furnishings and goods of a similar nature. The two upper floors may be reached by both elevator and stairs. The women's and misses read-to-wear garments and millinery departments will be located on the second floor. Household furnishings and electrical appliances will be on the third and top floor.

The new store is being directed by William Ginsberg and Victor Livingston. It is a unit of a chain of 60 stores scattered all over the United States.

[The New York Clothing Store occupied 158-164 West Street and was run by Charles and Samuel Kantor]

Five years later, on May 21, 1929, The Economy Store on West Street announced that they had outgrown that location and for over three months had huge clearance sales. A new location at 65-67 Merchants Row was being made ready. [Dunn Brothers Hardware; William E. Grace furs; Bacon Barbershop; Charles Ianetti, tailor; Loyal Order of Moose and Dunn Hall had occupied this space].

On August 9, 1929, the New York Clothing Store announced an expansion of a new store for women and according to the 1929 City Directory they now occupied 154 West Street as well as 158-164.

On August 17, 1929, thousands of shoppers visited the Economy Store in its new quarters on Merchants Row on its opening day.

Sixty-five clerks were busy throughout the day serving the crowds making an inspection of the various departments on the five floors of the building. There were twenty-four cash registers on the five floors, or one for each department. There was a beauty shop in the front of the second floor. Each floor had a telephone for use by the public and there were rest rooms on both the first and second floors.

A large electrical elevator ran from the basement to the roof. Ten fitting rooms were on the second and third floors. General offices of the store were located at the rear of the third floor. Many new departments were added, the largest being the shoe department in the basement. A gift shop featuring by illuminated glass cases shared a section on the first floor, as did a lending library. The fur coat department on the second floor was a new feature of the store. House furnishings and labor saving devices were contained in a department on the third floor.

For many people, the Economy Store of 1929 was a store beyond compare and many still have wonderful memories of "shopping at the Economy".

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, February 12, 1925

Modern Youth Goes Back to Olden Type on Valentine's Day

Countless youthful swains and the modern counterpart of the once bashful maid are looking forward with unalloyed eagerness to the manifold joys of Valentine's Day.

For on the day young lovers who dare not approach their ladies fair with written words of adoration on the humdrum days of the year are gifted with a temporary boldness. They are given the privilege of sending to their loves sentimental cards which make plain a fondness which they dare not express at other times.

And the ladies, chafing perhaps throughout the year at the backwardness of freckled-faced boys, may look forward with satisfaction to February 14th for well they know that on that glad day the mails will be burdened with gaudy-hued cards of affection.

At least these were the conditions a decade ago. Perhaps the vogue for abbreviated hair, the urge for cheeks glowing with an unnatural flush, the desire for carmine lips and lids adorned with mascara which has accompanied the evolution of the female of the species, have done away, to an extent, with the significance of the day. Possibly high-powered motors, balloon tire trousers and collegiate pipes have driven from the minds of the males the tender thoughts peculiar to the holiday.

In any event there will be countless persons who will exchange greetings. Some more serious minded will send the boisterous comics which dealers sell like hotcakes prior to the glad festival. And, yes, there is no doubt there will be the usual call for the sentimental; for the old favorite depicting two hearts pierced by an arrow underneath which is the interrogation, "Will you be my Valentine?" There can be no doubt of it, such things must be.

History says that the custom of choosing valentines on St. Valentine's Day has been associated with the name of the saint through accident. It was formerly the custom on the eve of St. Valentine's Day for young people to meet. Lots were drawn and each thus obtained a girl or boy for a Valentine, who was bound to service of the other for a year. It is believed that the present custom grew out of this practice.

The other theory is that a young girl arranged to secretly bring food to the imprisoned Valentine. He sent her a message thanking her and her friends for their caring and signed it "Your Valentine". Who really knows!

Anyway, things have come a long way since 1925, and Valentine's Day has become a romantic day for many people. **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!**

Tidbits from Then and Now

Recently the old "age" problem has arisen. Do we put the age of majority back up to 21? Do we lower it back to 18? However you look at it, the same argument has been going on for years as seen in the following letter, dated May 3, 1894.

Edward Dana
Attorney at Law
Rutland, VT

Mr. A. H. Russell

Dear Sir: In regard to age at which girls become of age. Section 2421 of the Revised Laws of Vermont is as follows:-"Men of the age of twenty one years and women of the age of eighteen years shall be considered of age, and until those ages shall be considered minors."

This is the law of Vermont on that subject, although in some states women as well as men do not become of age until they are 21 years old, but in Vermont it is different as to girls. And even [if] that were not so, you should not put the money of your girls into the list [apparently his account] as they are the only ones who can draw the money from the savings banks, unless you have been appointed their legal guardian. Because the law provides that minors may draw their own money. Even if the girls had a legal guardian the rights and duties of the guardian would cease when the girls become of age. If there is an excess over fifteen hundred dollars in savings banks belonging to the girls they should make a list [account] themselves and put it into their lists, that is all over \$1500.

Yours, Edward Dana

[Edward Dana was an attorney with an office at 2 Putnam & Sawyer's Block and his home was at 26 Madison Street].

Another interesting notation from *The Rutland Courier*, February 26, 1864.

Economy in a Family--There is nothing which goes so far toward placing young people beyond the reach of poverty as economy in the management of their affairs. It matters not whether a man furnish a little or much for his family. If there is continual leakage [bad spending] in his kitchen or parlor, it runs away, he knows not how, until he has no more to give. It is the husband's duty to bring into the house, and it is the duty of the wife to see that none goes wrongfully out of it--not the least article, however unimportant in itself, for it establishes a precedent and opens the door for ruin to stalk in, and this often leaves things unimproved. A man gets a wife to look after his affairs, and to assist him through life-- to educate and prepare his children for a proper station in life--and not to dissipate his property. The husband's interest should be the wife's care, and her greatest ambition carry her no further than his welfare and happiness, together with that of her children. This should be her sole aim and the theatre of her exploits in the bosom of her family.

How times have changed! They were partners, but not equal partners as we have today. Although when you think about it, in today's world if both the husband and wife manage their incomes wisely or unwisely the same situations can still occur.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, February 24, 1905

Delehanty is Found Guilty

Several odd occurrences took place yesterday afternoon at the office of City Judge William Ross in the course of the trial of Dr. N.J. Delehanty, who was finally found guilty of breaking the state health laws and was fined the minimum amount.

Among these occurrences was an exchange of repartee between Dr. C.S. Caverly on the witness stand and T.W. Moloney, counsel for the respondent, and a trial of strength between State's Attorney Robert A. Lawrence and the respondent, the two indulging in quite a severe tussle for the possession of a book in the case. While the counsel for the respondent urged him not to comply with the state's attorney's request for the book, the two pulled and hauled to the applause of the spectators, until the inoffensive book was torn in the struggle and the court finally intervened along the lines of the suggestion of the respondent's counsel.

The case was, on the whole, one of many interesting and instructive, as well as amusing, features and was attended by a room full of spectators who stayed for nearly four hours until the end was reached.

It was alleged that Dr. Delehanty broke the state health laws in not reporting to the health officer a case of membranous croup which caused the death of a child. Health officer Edgar B. Moore identified the health certificate signed by Dr. Delehanty and giving the cause of death as croup. He received no other notice of the death and he had not fumigated nor quarantined the house. Dr. C.S. Caverly testified that croup, membranous croup, and diphtheria are identical and mean the same disease and are so classified in the Bertillon system required to be used on death certificates.

There was quite a tilt [dispute] between Dr. Cavalry and counsel for the respondent in regard to medical terms and authorities. Attorney Moloney asked, "How long does it take medical science to become out of date?" "Well, not a great while for some branches," was the doctor's reply. "I thought not. Is that why the state health laws are changed every year?" questioned the lawyer. "It sometimes looks as if some of them are changed to keep up with the ideas of the lawyers," answered the doctor. "Some people claim these laws were drafted by a shoemaker," said the lawyer. "Well, they may have been, but he certainly went under the name of a lawyer," replied the doctor.

The state's attorney asked for book authority for one of the respondent's statements. The witness got the book from a nearby table and started to read. "Wait a minute" interrupted the state's attorney, taking hold of the book. The witness clung tightly to the other end of the document and refused to relinquish it. "Let me see it," said the State's Attorney. Still the respondent clung. "Don't you do it," counseled Mr. Moloney. "Hold on to it. Don't give it up until the court tells you to" as the two men rocked back and forth in the struggle for the book while the spectators

clapped and roared in encouragement. The scene lasted over a minute and the court told the state's attorney to let the respondent have the book.

Sounds like some of the "Court Cases" you see today on TV!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, March 3, 1905

"KNOCKING RUTLAND"

Other Towns in the State Are Realizing Value of Self Examination (from Lyndonville Journal)

The Rutland Herald takes exception to the following from a contemporary on the west side of the state: "Rutland is experiencing religious revival. There isn't a town that needs one more." The fling at Rutland was probably written without much malice, but illustrates well the fact that a number of newspapers have the habit of "knocking" Rutland as though there were a lot of humor in the suggestion that it is very bad place. The Herald says of this habit of pointing out Rutland as the "awful example":

"All Vermont towns need jacking up religiously more or less; but we do not know why Rutland should be put at the head of the list. It is the habit of papers of a certain ilk to cast reflections upon the moral character of Rutland. Our reputation is due in part to the Rutland way of calling a spade a spade. We discuss local affairs without any regard to the effect it may have upon outside people. Some towns are pleased to call themselves lily-white. That is their affair. We are more concerned with the dark spots upon our own toga, and we are content to go on working out our own salvation without setting moral appraisals on other communities. There is grace enough to go around; the great thing is to grow in it."

There is a deal of good sound philosophy in what the Herald says. The futility and silliness of comparing the moral status of one town with that of another is apparent enough, but what we are concerned about from a professional viewpoint, is the suggestion that a newspaper exists for something besides puffing its own town and publishing flattering obituaries of its leading citizens when they die. The newspaper that is true to itself will not always ignore the dark spots on the toga nor will it keep silent when a sharp word of truth is necessary to disillusionize a self-righteous constituency. A realization of our own shortcomings is a necessary condition if we are to be subject to the law of growth.

100 years have passed since the above article appeared in the newspaper. This past summer Rutland entertained visitors from Rutland, England. They came to assess Rutland and compare it with Rutland, England. They visited with Rutland businessmen and visited the Boys and Girls Club as well as touring other areas with Mayor Cassarino. The resulting article, far from "knocking" Rutland, presented Rutland in a very desirable light. Good media can happen!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, March 10, 1905

Nearing Completion

Work on Terrazzo wainscoting at Railway station rapidly drawing to a close

The work of putting the terrazzo work into the depot waiting room is nearly completed. Work of laying the floor already is finished, with the exception of putting on the final coat of oil, and the men now are busy with the wainscoting. The force has been kept working far into the night that the work might be completed sooner. The six-inch border, which is made of square pieces of red and white marble, set into cement in the form of a design, adds greatly to the appearance of the room. The border, which runs entirely around the room at the top of the wainscoting, is very pretty and gives a finished and artistic appearance to the work.

The ticket office, which is in the center of the east side of the room, will be wainscoted, as will the pillars which support the ceiling. A pleasing feature of the floor is a wide border of dark red. When the work is completed the floor and side walls to the height of five feet will be one solid piece of terrazzo, without any cracks in which dirt might collect. For this reason the architects claim that the room will be perfectly sanitary.

It is expected that the terrazzo work will be completed in about ten days, after which the carpenters will finish the ticket office and toilet rooms. The room probably will be ready for occupancy about the first or second week in April.

Today we have an Amtrack station but the beautiful old station, long gone, still recalls many memories in minds and hearts of Rutlanders.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, March 17, 1905

St. Patrick's Day.

Green will be worn today for the hero who drove the snakes out of Ireland. "Shamrock and The Rose" to play at Opera House.

The color scheme for today will be green in honor of the patron saint who drove the snakes out of Ireland. "The Shamrock and The Rose" will be presented at the Opera House in the afternoon and evening, under the auspices of St. Peter's Hibernian Benevolent Union, and under the direction of Archie D. Hayward. The schools will close at 3 o'clock to enable the pupils to attend the performance.

St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is said to have driven all the vermin out of that country. Legend represents him as born in Scotland about 396, sold as a slave into Ireland while a lad, and returning later to convert that country to Christianity.

Oh, the "Luck of the Irish"!

There's the little old Leprechaun! According to Webster's Dictionary this is a little old man who can reveal hidden treasure to anyone who catches him. He's usually shown with a pot of gold.

How about *I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles*? "They fly so high, nearly reach the sky, and like my dreams they fade and die. Fortune always hiding, I've looked everywhere. I'm forever blowing bubbles, pretty bubbles in the air." By the way, the words to this song were written by a former worker at the Rutland Herald, John Kellette in 1919.

Then, today we have Megabucks! We try and try and only one in thousands can find that "hidden treasure".

But, it's fun to be Irish on St. Patrick's Day--have a good one--think green!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, March 4, 1905

Famous Terrier Which Saw Service With Sixth Massachusetts in Puerto Rico Has Been Gone Since Thursday

"Christy" is of lowly birth but, widely known and owned by a Rutland man.

"Christy," John W. Kellette's black wire haired fox terrier, has evidently changed his place of abode, as Mr. Kellette has not seen him since Thursday morning. "Christy" is a famous dog named for one of Massachusetts's best known men, Austin P. Christy, owner of the *Worcester Telegram*; a war dog, having seen service in F Company, Sixth Massachusetts Volunteer regiment infantry, in Puerto Rico and was the official mascot of the regiment. He was of lowly birth, but circumstances placed him on a pedestal of fame, and Rutland people have often paused to notice this little black fellow following his master with head erect, and his prancing gait.

He first saw the light of day at Fairfax, VA within sight of General Mosby's famous guerilla rendezvous and it was there that "Christy" was captured by Mr. Kellette on May 22, 1898, when the Sixth regiment, of which Mr. Kellette was a member, made camp at Camp Alger, Dunn Loring, VA, 12 miles from Washington. Kellette, in collaboration with S. Walter Rogers, at the time was handling camp stories and war news, as war correspondent for the *Worcester Telegram*.

"Christy's" troubles then began. Very homely, he became the butt of the soldiers and from A Company to M Company, they tried to get rid of him; first by cutting the rope which tied him to Kellette's tent pole, and then by turning him adrift or giving him away to other companies indifferent regiments. Kellette, however always regained possession and carried his pet back in triumph. He was dropped off a train between Richmond and Williamsburg in Virginia; picked up by dog catchers in Charleston each time he was recaptured, and Kellette still retained ownership.

General Ernst issued orders at Charleston SC that dogs were not to be put aboard for transportation to Puerto Rico, and Kellette had to do some tall thinking to get "Christy" on board in face of that mandate, but finally, rolling "Christy" in the "horse-collar roll" of a soldier (his bundle of possessions), he was carried into the hold of the *Dutchess*, and kept there until the vessel was out at sea.

He landed in Puerto Rico July 26, 1898, and when the little chap was actively in war, his old time haters became warm friends. Misery likes company, and soldiers and dog were surely enjoying misery. "Christy" behaved like a gentleman, marching and camping the entire length of the island, and on October 21st, saw the last of the Spaniards leave the island.

His elegant step won hosts of friends in Boston, on the regiments return, parading before dignitaries of the old Bay state and he finally made camp in Northboro, MA, Mr. Kellette's home.

On November 25, 1904 he was brought to Rutland and the fifteenth of February 1905 he was installed as watch dog at 25 Church Street, where Mr. Kellette lived. It was Mr. Kellette's intention when nature put the touch of eternal rest on "Christy", to have a taxidermist put his body in shape for presentation to F Company, Sixth regiment and fill a niche reserved for him at the Armory. Although not worth 15 cents as a dog, he was worth a million dollars for sentimental reasons.

March 6, 1905

After "Christy" left home on Thursday morning, he became bewildered by getting into a neighborhood strange to him and his ramble ended in front of the Berwick. He waited until the door opened and once inside he devoted his attention to Edward Downs, a resident of the Berwick. Mr. Downs began to hunt for the owner but failed and took the little creature to his room. When the *Herald* arrived in the morning he read the story of "Christy" and returned him home to a royal welcome.

"Christy" received a new collar as his punishment for running away. The name plate bore the owner's name and address so that the little fellow's plaint that his wanderings are due to aphasia [loss of power to speak or understand] will not furnish excuses in the future.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald January 12, 1953

Rutland To Be CAP Hqs.

Vermont Wing to Move From Barre Within a Month, Dr. Clark New Commander

Headquarters will be set up in Rutland as soon as a suitable location can be found. Dr. Clark, who has been made a lieutenant colonel under the new set-up declared. There are 235 senior members and 565 cadets in the Vermont Wing of the CAP. A number of personnel on the headquarters staff have been replaced. Under the new system, Lt. Col. Walter D. Griffin of Rutland will be deputy commander of the Wing; Reginald C. Wilson of East Clarendon, executive officer; Miles Richards of Rutland, adjutant; Richard Brooks of Rutland, assistant adjutant; Rose Roucoulet of Rutland, assistant coordinator of Civilian defense; Bernard Donahue of Rutland, personnel officer; William Fewkes of Rutland, assistant communications officer; Dr. Sumner Cohen of Rutland, transportation officer; Betty Reed of Rutland, cadet recruiting; Douglas Cook of Rutland, cadet training; Reginald Foster of Rutland, operations officer; Joseph Brisson of Rutland, director of maintenance; Floyd Fisher of Truthville, NY, assistant director of maintenance; Don Hathorne of Rutland, supply officer; Lloyd Piggrem of Rutland, air inspector; and Don Scott of Rutland, photographic officer.

Dr. Clark said the present Rutland squadron will be broken into three sections, including headquarters staff, the West Rutland and Fair Haven squadrons. Lt. Wayne Helin will command the West Rutland squadron, while Lt. Dominic Canale of Fair Haven will head the Fair Haven squadron and Capt. Reginald Wilson of Rutland will command the headquarters squadron. Dr. Clark was the 26th man in Vermont to join the CAP in 1941. As a 2nd Lieutenant, he commanded the Rutland squadron, then part of the Vermont State Guard. In 1945, he was promoted to 1st lieutenant. He was executive officer of the Vermont Wing prior to his appointment as commander.

The Civil Air Patrol was founded on December 1, 1941, just days before the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. CAP initially planned only on liaison flying and interdiction of infiltrators on the East Coast and the southern border, but CAP's mission grew when German submarines began to prey on American ships. CAP pilots provided their own airplanes and equipment, and often couldn't cover expenses on their \$8 per flying-day government pay, which often arrived two months late. Civic organizations across the nation chipped in with "Sink-a-Sub Clubs," staging fundraisers for Coastal Patrol. The military had resisted "those country-club pilots" and their "toy planes," so initially CAP planes did not carry bombs and depth charges. After a crew watched in vain as a grounded sub off Cape Canaveral, Florida, escaped before the military arrived the CAP planes were equiped and are credited with sinking two subs.

CAP's role after the war was much in question, and it was widely expected to fade away along with most other wartime institutions. Military and political leaders rose to praise CAP's unusual commitment and accomplishment. President Truman signed a bill granting CAP a national

charter, placing the organization in a unique status similar to the American Red Cross. The United States Air Force was created as an independent armed service in September of 1947, and the Civil Air Patrol was permanently designated as its official auxiliary the following year. Since air search and rescue had been one of CAP's primary missions during the war, it was obvious there was no other organization with the equipment and training to continue this vital job in the post-war years. CAP, with its proven record of volunteer service using light aircraft was put to work.

The Vermont CAP, with a membership of 270, still exists and the Wing Command now meets in Burlington. The Rutland squadron members, comprised of seniors and cadets, meet weekly for their training at the CAP emergency response center located at the Rutland State Airport. Cadets are eligible to join at ages 12 to 18. [If enrolled in CAP before their 19th birthday they may stay in the program to age 21.] Senior members may join at age 18 and after. The squadron houses a Cessna 172 airplane in its hanger along with vehicles to transport cadets and conduct search missions. Volunteers range from police officers to commercial pilots and include over 30 cadets and 35 seniors..

CAP is Congressionally chartered as a non-profit corporation to perform three distinct missions: Emergency Services, Aerospace Education and Cadet Programs. CAP has recently expanded its efforts into supporting various missions for America. These missions include homeland security, disaster relief, counter-drug and other missions requested by various government agencies. Locally, CAP supports lost person searches with the Vermont State Police; disaster relief with Vermont Emergency Management; search for downed aircraft with VT Agency of Transportation, along with supporting local programs like STARBASE, a National Guard program for 5th and 6th grade students.

Senior members volunteer their time and resources to carry out these missions and to seek ways to continually improve CAP programs. CAP programs for cadets offer local flight training, summer encampment and winter survival education. National programs allow members to take part in a vast variety of experiences, from ranger school in Pennsylvania to para-rescue school in New Mexico. CAP also participates in the IACE (International Air Cadet Exchange) program - an opportunity for both cadets and seniors to travel abroad.

Today, many of our local youth are taking advantage of this leadership program. The training skills they receive will be of great advantage in their future endeavors. The senior members continue to provide volunteer services to our community through their emergency services and mentorship of the cadets. As a volunteer non-profit program, the Civil Air Patrol conducts fundraising for equipment and travel. This is essential to offer the programs to youth and to support the requests for services from the various national and state agencies.

Many local people who belonged to CAP in the years past will remember how it was for them. They would be impressed with how our youth can benefit from the programs in CAP which have been improved to meet the challenges of today's world.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, April 1, 1905

Rutland Maple Sugar Men Satisfied With New Law Requiring Labels

"It is all right," is the verdict of Rutland maple sugar men regarding the new sugar law. In this state and Massachusetts, new laws require that maple sugar products be labeled "pure" if they are, if not, the label must give the name and percentage of the other articles in its composition.

G.H. Grimm says: "It's a fine thing. It is certainly a great good to the producer if enforced."

Dunn Brothers, who have handled large quantities of syrup and sugar for years say: "It is a good thing. Lots of the adulterated article is made in Vermont. Sometimes there is no maple sugar in the article for sale. It is good for the producer, middleman and consumer."

L.K. Osgood said: "It is good so far as it goes. It helps the makers of the pure article. I understand that New York City alone could and would use all the genuine article Vermont can produce, but don't want the adulterated. It is sugar, perhaps, but no maple taste. I recently sent some sugar to Burlington for analysis and was told that as all sugar is sugar, there is no method of telling what kind it is.

"I think the law will make maple sugar cheaper to the consumer. It will put a check on the makers of the diluted article, although it is unlikely that all goods will be absolutely pure. The Boston exchange has refused to take the product unless it is labeled 'pure'."

A prominent maple sugar man told a *Herald* reporter that the flow of maple syrup has been less than one-eighth of a crop and that if the weather did not change he feared producers would be in a tight fix. His hopes were good, however for he was confident that it would freeze that night. If the weather remains suitable, he said, this year's product will be a record breaker.

Some say that it makes no difference to the producer, for his expenses are less with a light flow, and the price higher. This man thought otherwise, saying the difference in price would not make up for the loss.

And today we are wondering if Vermont maple syrup is really all Vermont and are other Vermont products really "Made in Vermont"!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 23, 1903

Impressive Ceremonies

The Unveiling of the Drinking Fountain at Center Rutland

The ceremonies at the unveiling of the granite drinking fountain which has been erected by Ann Story chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, as a memorial to old Fort Ranger at Center Rutland and to mark the old military road from Charlestown, NH, to Crown Point, NY, were largely attended. About 500 people were present. The ceremonies were impressive and interesting.

The drinking fountain, which is to be used for watering horses, is situated on the plot of ground at the junction of the East Proctor Road and the road to West Rutland. The fountain is made of Barre granite and is three by three by five feet in dimensions. The front of the fountain is polished and bears the following inscription:

*Drinking Fountain
To mark the old military road from Charles-
Town, N.H., to Crown Point, N.Y.,
1759-60
Fort Ranger
stood on the opposite bluff, 1778
First commander, Capt. Gideon Brownson
Erected by Ann Story chapter,
Daughters of the American Revolution,
June 14, 1903*

The ground for the fountain, the foundation and the water supply, including the furnishing and laying of the pipe, were furnished by the Vermont Marble Company through Fletcher D. Proctor. The fountain was prepared at the works of the Temple Brothers.

The program was opened by "first call," given by Miss Rest Perkins. This was followed by "assembly" and "adjutant's call" by Miss Perkins and E.S. Kane. The invocation by Rev. Dr. Norman Seaver was followed by the singing of "America" by the assembly.

The welcoming address was by Mrs. A.D. Smith of North Clarendon, regent of Ann Story chapter. In her address Mrs. Smith spoke of the late Mrs. Jesse Burdett, who was state regent in Vermont for eight years and who founded 17 of the 19 chapters which now exist in this state. Mrs. Burdett was a lineal descendent of Capt. Brownson.

Dr. John A. Mead followed with an address on "Historical Reminiscences." Dr. Mead gave many historical facts of interest.

After "To the Colors" had been played by the cornets the fountain was unveiled by the regent, Mrs. Smith, and the vice regent, Mrs. Margaret Holmes Francisco.

A flag was raised at the fountain by John A. Sheldon, a veteran of the Civil War, and another on the flagstaff of the Vermont Marble Company's mill by A. J. Hayes, a veteran of the Spanish-American War. "The Star Spangled Banner" was played by Miss Perkins while the flags were being raised.

The fountain was presented to the town of Rutland by John A. Sheldon in behalf of the Daughters. The speech of acceptance was made by M. C. Webber. A song entitled "Fort Ranger," written for the occasion by Mrs. Margaret Holmes Francisco and arranged by Mrs. H. A. Harman, was sung by the assembly. Rev. Joseph Reynolds made an appropriate address, in the course of which he said that he thought that the patriotic societies and moneyed men of this city should buy the old house on West Street where the first legislature was held and preserve it.

"Retreat" was sounded by the cornetists, after which the flags were lowered, while Miss Perkins played "The Star Spangled Banner." "Taps" were sounded by Miss Perkins.

Unfortunately when the new trestle was built, the fountain was moved across the highway. The inscription remained the same and would now indicate that Fort Ranger was on the opposite side. Future generations should be made aware of the move and the original location of Fort Ranger.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Killington wants to leave Vermont. Apparently such a thing is not new. Individuals seem to do it all the time. One such incident has come to light from some Rutland material acquired by the Rutland Historical Society from the Charlestown NH Historical Society. The following is a letter written in November 1915 by Mr. J. R. Hoadley of the State Mutual Fire Insurance Company [located in the Mead Building] to a Mr. E.H. Blodgett.

"Dear Sir: We have received your check for \$69.46 to balance account to date. We are sorry that your business arrangements have compelled you to become a resident of New Hampshire, as we are inclined to believe that Vermont needs a type of business man of which you are a part.

"We desire to thank you for the business which you have given the State Mutual Fire Insurance Company during the short period that you have represented us in Windsor. While the business has not been large, it is apparently of a good quality.

"At your suggestion, we have written Mr. Howland and we have asked him to get the property of the State Mutual Fire Insurance Company which you might have in the line of application blanks, etc., and that we will endeavor to see him in the near future, looking towards his appointment to the State Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Should you so desire, you might turn over to him anything in the line of application blanks and advertising matter which you might have in your possession. We shall endeavor to visit Mr. Howland in the near future and at least get better acquainted with him. We trust that you may be willing to assist Mr. Howland in any way you can for the benefit of the State Mutual Fire Insurance Company. Yours truly, S/ J.R. Hoadley"

Then of course, there is the ever present "why Rutland!"

From 1778 to 1804 Rutland alternated with Windsor as the seat of state government until the capital was built in Montpelier. In June of 1991 there was a joint Bicentennial project of the Vermont State Archives and the Vermont Statehood Bicentennial Commission entitled, "The Return of the State Capital". The caption on one of the flyers states, "People Say That Vermont State Government Hasn't Been the Same Since it Left Rutland". The basic purpose of the project was to discuss and debate the "Right to Know and Freedom of the Press."

The public's right to know how their elected representatives have acted in their name is one of the most important components of a free press. Both rights have been debated throughout Vermont's history from the 1798 trial and conviction of Matthew Lyon under the Alien and Sedition Acts [an interesting person for some student to research. He was re-elected while in prison!] to the 1989 case recognizing a governor's right to deny access to records through the use of executive privilege.

Now, Killington wants to go to New Hampshire---certainly keeps life in Vermont interesting!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, April 22, 1915

Lincoln Anniversary is Passed Quietly

The 50th Anniversary of the death of Abraham Lincoln had quiet observance in Rutland last Thursday. It is safe to say that many did not stop in their busy plans long enough to realize that 50 years ago the day had been fraught with dire significance for the American nation. April 15th 50 years ago was a memorable one in Rutland and every other city and town. The public was stunned by the suddenness of the bolt from the blue.

One man in Rutland clearly remembers with particular clearness the sentiments aroused by the news and the bulletins sent concerning the condition of the sinking victim. He is E.G. Mason and he took the dispatches published in the special edition of the *Herald* telling of the death. The local telegraph office was then located in the southern end of the railroad station, about where the depot restaurant now stands. He can give a graphic description of the wonder, bewilderment and sorrow inspired by the dispatches.

Fred A. Field, a small boy with a partiality for the kind of ball played in those days, was engaged in a game in what is now Main Street Park when a passerby told of the death of the chief executive. Mr. Field and the rest of the youngsters went to the *Herald* office, located on the Washington Street hill, got their arms full of copies of the extra edition and proceeded to sell them to probably the most eager public they ever had to deal with.

A preserved copy of the *Herald* of that date was shown in the window of Wilson Clothing Company on Thursday [last] attracting a great deal of comment. In the window of the Rutland County National Bank the tattered remnants of one of the flags of the 9th Vermont Volunteers, owned by General E. H. Ripley of Rutland and New York, was on view, along with the original crepe [thin black cloth] with which the colors of all the Union regiments were hung when news came of Lincoln's death. Principal Isaac Thomas read an Essay on Lincoln and the high school sang patriotic songs.

Now 140 years later, how many people know that April 15, 1865, was the date that Abraham Lincoln died.

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Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, April 29, 1915

Thief Gets Away With \$70 and Ring

Two rolls of money, each containing about \$35 and a diamond ring valued at \$175 are missing from the home of Sidney A. Baker, No. 117 Park Street. One roll of money belonged to Mrs. Anna Parker, who is employed as a domestic at the Baker home and the rest of the money together with the diamond ring, was owned by Mr. Baker, an engineer on the Rutland Railroad and owner and manager of the Baker Seed House. Christopher Burton, an employee, formerly of Chicago, has been among the missing since 10 o'clock Sunday morning, when he came to the city to deliver some cut flowers.

Burton appeared at the Baker greenhouses a week ago and asked for employment. He was a good worker and seemed to understand the business. On Sunday, he went to the city to deliver a box of cut flowers and failed to return. At noon, Mr. Baker returned home from his run to Troy, New York and noticed his bureau drawer had been ransacked. When word of the robbery reached the kitchen, Mrs. Parker remembered she had a considerable sum of money in a valise on the floor of a closet just off her room. She found the valise opened and the money gone.

The drawer in Mr. Baker's room and the closet where Mrs. Parker's money was stored away were the only places disturbed. Mr. Burton had evidently used his week in the Baker home making himself familiar with the places where money was kept.

Things don't seem to change over the years---beware of strangers knocking at your door!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, May 6, 1915

J. B. Page Mansion is in New Hands

Frederick S. Chaffee and A.A. Prouse completed negotiations Thursday for the purchase of the John B. Page property on South Main Street. The property is to be used as a restaurant and dining room, with a strong possibility that later the property will be fitted up and used for a summer hotel. There seems to be no doubt that this beautiful building, which has been vacant for many years, will once more be occupied.

The present plans include a proposal to move the large porte cochere [covered entrance] on the north side of the mansion to the south side. The driveway is also being changed to the south side and on the large northern lot it is planned to build a glass and sunshine dining room, independent of the main structure.

Mr. Prouse, at present proprietor of the Uwanta lunch rooms and the Quality Shop on Center Street, will manage the restaurant and dining rooms.

The Page mansion is one of the historic residences of old Rutland and is pointed out to visitors as one of the landmarks of the city. John B. Page was governor of Vermont from 1867 to 1869.

With a view of using the mansion for a sanatorium, out-of-town parties had been negotiating for its purchase for some time and had recently obtained a price of \$10,500. There was some delay in negotiations and in the meantime the place was secured by Mr. Chaffee and Mr. Prouse.

[Note: George T. Chaffee (father of Frederick S.) was agent for John Page of Phoenix, Arizona, one of the heirs. George T. had placed a price of \$15,000 on the property, but it is understood that the purchase price was \$10,000.]

After the purchase of the mansion in 1915, the building became known as the Sycamore Inn. The entrance was not changed and the proposed sunshine dining room was never built. Today, this beautiful, historical building, refurbished into apartments, is known as The Sycamore.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, May 13, 1913

Five Prizes Offered In Garden Contest

Plans for the competition in gardening to be held this summer by the Garden Club and for the sale of seedlings at Memorial Hall on Saturday, May 22, were discussed at a meeting of the committee in charge of these events yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Robert Lawrence on North Main Street.

At the sale of plants, which is to be held in the hall over the library, it is expected that a great variety of annuals and perennials will be offered at very low prices. The sale is open to the public with the single restriction that purchasers must agree to care for their own flower gardens, with the possible exception of preparing the soil.

With a view of interesting the citizens of Rutland in flower and vegetable growing and in improving the appearance of the grounds around their homes, the club has decided to offer five prizes, anyone living in the city being eligible. The judges will take the following things, including the general improvements of the grounds, into consideration.

General neatness and order	5 points
Planting to hide unsightly objects	5 points
Permanence of planting	5 points
Succession of bloom	3 points
Arrangement of colors	2 points

Persons wishing to compete in the garden contest must send their names to Mrs. Robert Lawrence, 37 No. Main Street on or before May 22.

One can only assume that this might have been one of the entrants!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, May 20, 1915

Arthur Bacon Buys The Hotel Hamilton

An important real estate deal was consummated yesterday when the Hotel Hamilton on West Street was sold by Charles P. Harris of Pleasant Street to Arthur Bacon of Morse Place, who will open the hotel, renting apartments, but not providing meals for his roomers. Mr. Bacon will make several changes such as the installation of a pool room, barber shop, general reading and lounging room.

It is not known what price was paid, but a few weeks ago Mr. Harris offered the site to the Eagles for \$21,000 and it is understood the deal involved this amount. The block is of brick, four stories in height with a 65 foot front on West Street, running back on Evelyn Street for 80 feet, the ground floor being given over to stores, all of which are occupied.

It was planned by Mr. Harris to have the large hall on the upper floor cut up into sleeping rooms and he had the men and material engaged when the late George E. Trask, the former manager of Hotel Hamilton, was taken sick.

It is probable that a restaurant will be opened in the near future in connection with the hotel, although this may be under another management for the present at least.

This block is the same one Mr. Harris offered to turn over to a board of trustees three years ago for the perpetual use of a Y.M.C.A., agreeing eventually to add the stores below to the gift, when it was to constitute a memorial to his father, the late Joel B. Harris.

A few months since, Mr. Harris sought to have the Rutland Women's Club buy the property for its use and that of the Boy's Club and the Boy Scouts, as well as other federated women's societies in the city. It was thought then too great a burden to assume, although there were those who strongly favored the plan, with the purpose of letting rooms to young women, a matron to be in charge.

It is expected to have the apartments ready to open within a month. When the new rooms on the fourth story are added, there will be over 60 in all. There has been some talk of a roof garden above, reached by an elevator from the Evelyn Street side. One of the stipulations demanded by Mr. Harris was that no liquor should be sold in the building.

Mr. Bacon's family, consisting of his wife, a son and two daughters will move from Morse Place to the block as soon as the improvements are completed and it is refurbished.

The block was built by the late Frederick Chaffee and Levi Miner on land bought of the George Ruggles estate some twenty five years ago and cost upwards of \$20,000.

Tidbits from Then and Now

November 30, 1904

Many Orders Refused at L.F. Miner's Carriage Shop

Orders from all over the country are being refused at L.F. Miner's wagon and carriage shop as the capacity of the plant is now taxed to the utmost. An addition will probably be built on the shop next spring, at which time new machinery will be installed and more help hired.

Mr. Miner was born and brought up in this city and so his success is of special interest to Rutland people. For 10 years he conducted a blacksmithing and wagon repair shop at the corner of West and Pine Streets. Occasionally a wagon was built, but as a general thing all work was repairing. What few wagons made were of such a quality, however, that in time the demand for such work was greater than the shop could turn out. The necessity for a larger building became evident, and the result was Mr. Miner's present plant on Pine Street.

When he first moved into his present quarters, five years ago next February, the owner was at sea as to how to utilize so much spare room. He employed but four men, the same as in the former establishment. Horseshoeing, wagon repairing, painting and building were all done at the same shop. Business increased from the outset, until now the factory employs 16 hands. Mr. Miner states that 25 could be employed year round if his shop was large enough. Sleighs and wagons of all descriptions are made in addition to the repairing and horseshoeing which is done. However, a specialty is made of the building of heavy farm, team and delivery wagons. These are used extensively about town and in the near-by villages. They also go all over the United States, some being sent to the Pacific Coast. At present Mr. Miner has a large order for advertising wagons from the manufacturers of Magic Yeast. This firm has given him a large amount of repairing and building during recent years.

The present factory is a three-story wooden structure. The first floor is utilized by the blacksmithing and wood-working branches. On the second floor is the paint shop, and above it is the storage room. There are eight blacksmiths, including a helper, four painters and three wheelwrights employed in the shop, making a weekly payroll of about \$175. All work is under Mr. Miner's personal supervision.

Wagons are leaving the shop continually. The record for work in one week is four wagons, which were built and exhibited at the local fair before the week had ended. Owing to the steadily increasing demand made upon the plant, an office has been built on the west side and the room in the shop formerly taken up by the office will be utilized for another wheelwright's bench. Mr. Miner is planning to build a three-story wooden addition on the east side next spring. This will make the factory one-third larger, and will probably increase the output still more, as new and modern wood-working machinery will be installed. Among these will be a planing machine and band saws, which will be run by power to be installed.

Tidbits from Then and Now

December 3, 1904

Will Run Factory Evenings

G. H. Grimm's Plant is Crowded With Business

G. H. Grimm's factory on Pine Street is crowded with work and Mr. Grimm stated yesterday that in about two weeks the plant will be run evenings to keep up with orders. Goods are shipped all over the world.

Twenty men are employed at the factory making articles that include steele range covers for maple syrup pails [covers with an open area], evaporators and the Grimm sap spout, which is the principal item.

Thirteen years ago Mr. Grimm came to this city from Ohio and built a factory on Pine Street opposite his present building. Six years ago he built the two-story wooden structure which he now occupies. The plant, which Mr. Grimm says is the best equipped of its kind in the country, contains 30,000 square feet of floor space. The machinery, which is run by two five horse power electric motors, is built with special adeptness to speed. The work with the exception of the casting is all done here.

supplies are stored in the basement and attic of the building. On the first floor there are seven presses, with a capacity for making 12,000 sap spouts daily. These spouts go through 11 operations before completion. They turn out of the tree, thus leaving the wound in a healthy condition. The sale of these spouts is steadily increasing.

Two years ago 300,000 sap spouts were sold. Last year the number was 900,000 and this year 2,000,000 spouts were sold. Mr. Grimm is the inventor of all his manufactures. He claims that the spout alone means a savings of 2,000,000 pounds of sugar and that this is added to by the covers.

On the second floor is the packing room, tinning department, the office and the syrup and sugar refining branch. Ten thousand gallons of syrup and five tons of sugar were refined here last season. This was made from syrup bought from farmers. It was canned and shipped all over the world. All orders are secured through the mail, as there is no salesman on the road. Perhaps the state of Ohio takes more of the factory's products than any other state.

The annual output, according to Mr. Grimm, is valued at some \$50,000. Many orders are ahead and business has greatly improved over last year.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, October 11, 1905

Looking for horses for Fire Station No. 2

A new team for use at fire station No. 2 will probably be purchased within a few days. The present horses, Prince and Colonel will be sold, after the new horses have been thoroughly broken in. They are getting old, and although they are still capable of good work, it is thought imperative that young animals be secured. Prince is 21 years old and Colonel is 18 years of age. Both horses have been connected with station No. 2 for several years and have done long and faithful service. Aldermen C.E. Paige, G.O. Kelton and E.S. Watkins, the fire department committee, looked over a pair of black horses which belong to Noyes & Scott. One of them weighs 1400 and the other 1300 pounds. It is not definitely decided whether this team will be bought, but it is certain that the two faithful fire steeds now occupying the stalls in station No. 2 have got to go, and be supplanted by younger animals. It is probable that these horses will be sold although public sentiment is against such a measure as it is generally thought that if the horses are not to be shot they are at least entitled to easy work and kind treatment for the remainder of their lives.

October 13, 1905: The fire department horses, Prince and Colonel, were not sold at public auction as was advertised, owing to Mayor J.F. Manning's reconsideration of his approval of the board of aldermen's resolution offering the horses for sale. A question arose as to the legality of the mayor's action. The mayor said that when the matter concerning the horses was first called to his attention he did not know that the animals had served the city for such a long time. Mr. Manning said that he had called a special meeting of the board of aldermen to either approve of his action or pass the matter over his head.

City Attorney George E. Lawrence was asked concerning the legality of the mayor's action in postponing the sale of the horses. Mr. Lawrence said he thought it best to continue the sale until next Wednesday, as there was no use of making a lot of trouble over such a trivial matter. Charles E. Page, president of the board of aldermen doubted the legality of the mayor's action in vetoing the resolution of the board, after having once approved of it. Mr. Paige said he recognized the fact that the horses had done good work for the city, and certainly would like to see them well treated for the remainder of their lives, but that as a city official, he did not think it right to let sentiment interfere with the city's business.

Miss Lena C. Ross, who had taken an active part in the attempt to prevent the sale of the horses, said that she would appear before the board of aldermen with a petition signed by the school children, and would also address the board in regard to the matter. Miss Ross stated that she had interviewed several clergymen in connection with the disposal of the horses, and that they were unanimously of the opinion that the horses were, by right of service, entitled to a "pension." Miss Ross further stated that if the city would guarantee to give the horses a living the remainder of their lives. she was sure that a sufficient amount of money could be raised by public subscription to purchase them.

November 14, 1905: The spirited controversy over the proposed sale of the two fire horses, Prince and Colonel, during which the local humane society, several hundred school children, one or two clergymen and various citizens have been challenging the board's decision, resulted in a special session of the board, when, with only two dissenting votes, the aldermen passed the motion calling for the sale of these horses, over the mayor's veto. Arrangements were immediately completed by Miss Lena Ross, officers of the humane society and others, to raise a fund with which to purchase the horses, at auction, and place them upon the farm owned by the Country Club, where the faithful animals could spend the remainder of their days comparatively free from arduous tasks.

The humane society has requested the *Herald* to receive subscriptions for this fund. The society also requests that the name of each donor should accompany the amount specified, so that if the amount of the fund is more than is necessary for the purchase of the horses, returns may be made to the proper parties. In addition to this it is proposed to request each pupil in the city schools to contribute one cent. Pupils in only three of the public schools were asked to vote on the question. All voted to prevent the sale of the horses to any party or parties who might abuse them.

When President C. E. Paige called the meeting to order every member was present. Mayor J.F. Manning presented a petition signed by 300 school children and also one signed by the officers and members of the Rutland Humane Society protesting against the sale of the horses by public auction. Alderman J. E. Creed said that much unnecessary comment had been caused by the resolution of the board, ordering the sale of these horses by auction, but that not a word was said when, a week ago, about 25 men, who were employed by the city at the stone crushing plant and the streets, were discharged. "Some of these men have been working for the city for the last 22 years, yet not a word has been said about giving them pensions, and they are human beings. The engineer of the fire department has been in the employ of the city for more than twice as long as either of the horses and if he were to get through tomorrow, no one would even intimate that he ought to have a pension. When we, as business men, propose to sell a couple of old horses which were bought by the city about 12 years ago, we are acting in the interests of the city."

Mayor Manning said that the horses had grown old in the service of the city and that he, for one, would dislike to see them ill-treated by being hitched to some truck wagon or garbage cart. He said that all the children in the city were fond of the horses. A ye and nay vote was called for, on the motion by Alderman Creed to sell the horses Wednesday afternoon, and the motion was carried 6 to 4.

[Concluded in next week's Sam's Good News!]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 15, 1905

Efforts to raise funds with which to purchase the two fire horses, Prince and Colonel, which will be sold at auction have resulted in \$19.07. It was learned that the local humane society had raised some money, but the amount was not given out. One of the parties interested telephoned *The Herald* to say that it looked as if the project to purchase the horses would be a failure, as the result of a lack of subscription to the fund. It is known that the first bid will be \$100 and it is thought that fully \$150 will be necessary to secure the animals. The humane society has been active during the past 24 hours and it is said that several hundred pennies from school children will be collected this morning.

An amusing incident is related in connection with the sale of one of the old fire horses some time ago. The animal is owned by a farmer who resides near the Creek Road. Wherever the animal may be, in the pasture or at work in harness, when the fire signal is heard, the animal starts immediately for the barn. The present owner was using the horse attached to a cultivator one day last summer, when the animal heard the familiar signal. He started on a gallop to the barn, dragging the cultivator and the surprised driver along with him. Thus the spectacle of a fire horse attached to some milk or junk wagon, dashing through the streets at breakneck speed may be one of the novel sights possible to witness after Prince and Colonel are sold.

A large number of people, including a few women, gathered to witness the auction. City Clerk H. B. Whittier, who acted as auctioneer, started the horses at \$100. James E. Creed bid \$125, which was raised to \$130 by Joseph Lapaul of East Wallingford, John H. J. Williams, offered \$150, after which Mr. Spaulding bid \$151, which secured the horses. Many expressions of satisfaction were heard in regard to the horses becoming the property of their original owner.

Mr. Spaulding told the *Herald* reporter, after the sale, that he had no particular use for the animals. He sold them to the city about 12 years ago, and it was sentiment as much as anything else that prompted him to purchase them. He stated that if he disposed of the horses to any party, it would be on condition that they should be well cared for. It is probable, that the Rutland Country Club will eventually secure the animals, which are physically in good condition and well able to earn their livings for several years. The animals cost the city \$450.

November 27, 1905: The old fire horses have not been turned over to the Rutland Country Club, and there seems to be a difference of opinion among the members as to whether they will accept them at all. The humane society, which has charge of the matter, is experiencing considerable difficulty in raising the amount necessary to purchase them, and the Country Club is now contemplating wintering two other horses, with the expectation of buying them in the spring. The humane society has only been able to raise \$22.03 which is not enough to purchase the horses.

December 2, 1905: The humane society and school children who contributed to the fund for the purchase of the two fire horses will be disappointed to learn that the animals have been sold. The new owner is a Pittsfield man who will give them a good home and light work.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 1, 1896

THE NEW STEAM GONG

An Unlooked For Test Causes Some Commotion

The new steam gong recently ordered for the fire department was placed in position yesterday afternoon on the Marble City Electric Company's station. [This building was the former roller-skating rink, sponsored by the Bicycle Club. It was near the corner of Church & Kendall Streets]. As soon as the gong was ready for use a formal test was made in the presence of K.K. Hannum, chief of the fire department, Assistant Chief Dunton, Inspector Beals and others. The gong was first connected with one boiler and later with two. When both boilers were used it was estimated that the gong could be heard for a distance of 10 miles, but it was found that the gong could be heard a greater distance. The station agent at South Wallingford, 14 miles from the city, heard the blasts and telegraphed to Rutland to find out what was the matter. The whistle was also heard at Brandon, 16 miles north of the city. The tests were considered extremely satisfactory by all present.

The gong, or whistle, as it is more properly called, is made by the Union Watermeter Company of Worcester, Mass., and is of the latest compound pattern. Between the upper and lower cylinder is a hollow circular chamber. The steam is first admitted into this chamber and then forced upward into the upper cylinder and down into the lower cylinder at the same instant. As the cylinders are of different sizes a compound vibration is the result.

No announcement had been made of the intended test and with the first blast of the great whistle people ran into the streets and gazed toward the fire stations expecting to see the apparatus come flying out. As the short, penetrating blasts continued, crowds gathered on the corners and discussed the unusual noise in an excited manner. On Merchants Row people ran in every direction and finally congregated on the corner of Merchants Row and Center Street. In the residential district people became frightened at the continued blowing of the whistle and ran about looking for the cause. Reports of a railroad disaster, an explosion of gas and a collapsed building spread rapidly and showed how fast unfounded rumors can spread on occasion. People living in the outskirts of the city became convinced of some great disaster and many came in on bicycles and by teams.

As soon as the indicator is put in, the gong will be blown twice every afternoon at 5:45 o'clock.

[I hope the indicator was to tone down the blast!]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, November 11, 1909

Three Theaters for Rutland

Three theaters in Rutland in 1910 is quite within the limits of possibility, if present plans all materialize. Plans for the Shriners theater to be erected in connection with their new temple on Wales Street have already been set and it is expected that work will commence on the building as soon after November 24 as the building committee can get together to award the contracts.

The second theater [The Opera House] is the one already doing business on Merchants Row, and which changed hands to a company of five business men of the city. These men are: H.O. Carpenter, C.W. Spencer, H.C. Farrar, W.R. Kinsman and L. F. Miner. Thomas E. Ripley of New York, executor of the estate of Mrs. W.Y.W. Ripley to which estate the property belongs, transferred it to the five men.

The Odd Fellows had an option on the property until April 1, 1910, and if they decided to take it over, would remodel it for the purpose of making it suitable for a lodge room and general home of the order in this city. They formed a stock company for this purpose and members of the lodge were asked to take shares to purchase the property. In the event that sufficient money could not be raised to do this, the new owners would hold the property as an investment and probably run the theater after making a few changes.

Thomas A. Boyle leased the Opera House in 1903 from Gen. Ripley. It is said that one of the provisions in the lease to Boyle was that there be no "leg shows" at the Opera House and that Gen. Ripley was to have three seats reserved for every change of program.

Because of its position between Boston, New York and Montreal, Rutland was able to book performances of artists and troupes which usually played only in large cities, during their stop-over in Rutland. Later all high school graduates and local talent shows were held at the Opera House until the Playhouse, now the Paramount Theater was built.

Boyle took over the management of the Playhouse on Center Street in 1914, and by about 1915 the Old Opera House building was used as a department store. The front was modernized in 1916 and utilized for retail purposes.

The third theater was to be built on West Street, on the vacant lot just east of the Elmore House [an Inn, now home of the parking garage at the corner of Edson]. Those behind this scheme were G. Tracy Rogers of Binghamton, NY, Leo H. Wise of New York, president and vice-president respectively of the Rutland Railway, Light and Power Company, Wright & Young of Brandon and M.E. Wheeler of this city. It is thought that several other local men were interested.

This theater would accommodate 1400 people, with three entrances to the main part and to the balcony on West Street. The front would be of buff-colored brick with terra cotta trimmings. The box office located in the lobby would lead to the foyer. The main auditorium would have the regulation sloping, dish-shaped floor used in all the modern theaters. A special feature of the theater would be a stage, 40 feet deep, built on the latest lines to enable the biggest shows on the road to play there. The plans were approved and work on the new building to be commenced in the spring to be ready for the 1910 season.

Apparently these great plans did not materialize, but the Grand Theater, on the opposite side of Edson Street [now the home of offices and eateries], seems to represent an altered version of the plans. The article neglected to mention the Colonial Theater on West Street which became a very popular spot for Rutland residents.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, July 27, 1893

Fire In Center Rutland

F.W. Shedd & Co's Store Burned to the Ground

The old brick store owned by F.Shedd & Son at Center Rutland was burned Friday night. The fire caught in the northwest corner of the store, and when first discovered, about 10 o'clock, the flames were bursting through the door on the side of the block. The fire spread so rapidly that the interior of the building was in flames before the owners of the stock, Cragin & Dugan, arrived. They were unable to save any of their stock of groceries and meat. In less than an hour the entire building, including a wooden building on the south end of the store used for a meat market, was one mass of flames.

Two hours from the time the fire started, nothing but the walls of the brick building were standing and the meat market was burned to the ground. The fire spread rapidly to the sheds and a house belonging to the Vermont Marble Company on the north side of the block. The house was occupied by Dennis O'Shea. He got all his goods out long before the house caught fire. The Italian family that occupied the second story of the brick store were asleep when the fire started, but were awakened by the alarm. They got only part of their goods out.

Rutland was called on for assistance, as the store is in the Town of Rutland. Chief Engineer Hannum and Assistant Engineer Dunton called out the Washington Hose and Steamer Company. The steamer and hose cart were sent over as quickly as possible, but the hose company was unable to do anything because of low water in Otter Creek. Chief Engineer Hannum was determined to save the house belonging to the Vermont Marble Company. To do this he attached the hose to the water tank in the company's mills and the steamer forced the water through the pipe upon the flames in the house, which were soon under control.

The old brick store was one of Rutland's landmarks, having stood there about 75 years. W.Y. Ripley, father of W.Y.W. Ripley, did business in the store around 1841 and J.W. Cramton was also in business there about 1850.

The fire attracted a large crowd from Rutland, Center Rutland and West Rutland. The blaze was seen for many miles.

Note from the Rutland Weekly Herald, October 19, 1893

The rebuilding of Shedd's store has begun. The store will be made of brick.

Tidbits from Then and Now

NEWSPAPERS WHICH HAVE BEEN PRINTED IN RUTLAND

Excerpts from the Rutland Evening News Feb. 20, 1912

United States Marshal Horace W. Bailey compiled a very comprehensive history of the newspapers printed in Rutland from 1792 to the present [1912]. Mr. Bailey procured a copy of a very rare leaflet of four pages, entitled "History of Rutland Newspapers," by Chauncy K. Williams for his research.

Chauncy K. Williams was a son of Governor and Chief Justice Charles K. Williams, a grandson of Rev. Samuel Williams, the author of Vermont's first history and first editor of the Rutland Weekly Herald.

The Herald of Vermont or Rutland Courier was first printed on June 18, 1792 in Rutland by Anthony Haswell. [Motto: "Let Sentiment Flow Free, and Candour Guide, We Own No Party, and Espouse No Side."] The newspaper building, located on the corner of the common, was destroyed by fire in September of 1792 and the publication was never resumed.

The Farmers Library; or Vermont Political & Historical Register was first printed on April 1, 1793. It was a political & historical paper, published by J. Lyon [Motto: "The Freedom and Impartiality of the Press Shall Remain Inviolable."] The last number was printed November 29, 1794, and was said to have been printed on paper made of equal proportions of rags and basswood bark.

The Rutland Herald; or Vermont Mercury, was first published by S. Williams & Co. December 8, 1794. [Motto: "In the Knowledge and Virtue of the People, the Freedom, the Energy and Permanency of the American Government Have Their Foundation."] In the first edition, the proprietors say, "As we have purchased of Mr. Lyon, editor of the Farmers Library, the printing office, apparatus and privileges annexed by law to his paper, it will, for the future be carried on by the subscribers with the above title, under the direction of Dr. Williams. Samuel Williams was Chief Judge of the County Court and the financial force behind the paper. The Rev. Samuel Williams was the editor.

The Rural Magazine or Vermont Repository was a monthly magazine devoted to literary, moral, historical and political improvement. It was first printed in January 1795 by J. Kirkaldie for S. Williams & Co. Rev. Samuel Williams LL.D. was editor. The last number was issued December 1796.

Vermont Mercury was first issued in 1802. The number for August 8, 1803 contained the following: "Rutland, VT, published every Monday morning by Stephen Hodgman". [Motto: "Let Party Zelots Rage and Madly Write. And Swear that White is Black and Black is White; Ours be the Nobler Task to Facts Proclaim--Candour our Guide, and Truth our Constant Aim.]

Vermont Courier was first published by Thomas M. Pomeroy on July 25, 1808, It is thought that it was discontinued in May 1810.

Rutland Republican was first published by Simeon Locke on August 29, 1848, [Motto: "Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor and Free Men"] Only six issues were printed.

The Vermont Union Whig. A home newspaper for Vermont; devoted in politics to national union: in literature to a purer taste was first published September, 1849 at Rutland and Brandon. William C. Conant was Editor at Rutland; Samuel M. Conant at Brandon. [Motto: "We shall exult if they who rule the land be men who hold its many blessings dear--Wise, Upright, Valiant, not a venial band, who are to judge of Danger which they fear, and Honor which they do not understand ---Wordsworth."] It is believed that the first steam printing press ever used in Rutland County was in connection with this paper and that it was used for the first time in printing the first number of the paper issued in Rutland.

The Vermont Star was first published in Ludlow from 1849-1850; then brought to Rutland and published for about one year by George A. Tuttle and associate editor, H. Ladd Spencer.

The Vermont Tribune was printed in Ludlow in 1850 by William Rogers.

The Guard of American Liberty was edited and first published by H.F. Potter in January 1857, It was devoted to "Know-Nothingism." Only a few issues were ever published.

The Rutland Courier was first published and edited by John Cain on August 12, 1857. The last issue was April 14, 1872.

Rutland Daily Herald. was first published and printed by George A. Tuttle & Co. on April 29, 1861. [Motto: "Let every American citizen, instead of crying Peace, Peace, when there is not Peace, rally upon the ramparts until secession is silenced; until the roar of artillery has ceased."]

Rutland County Independent was published from July 21, 1866 - April 1873, by McLean & Robbins and along with The Rutland Courier was sold to the Globe Paper Company. in 1873.

The Marble City Mirror was published for a few months in 1870 by James H. Lansley.

The Rutland Times was published from January 1870-November 1871 by McLean & Aiken.

The Vermont Mason was published by Henry Clark from May 1871-May 1873.

The Rutland Globe began on May 1, 1873. It's first editor was Orion Clemens, a brother of Mark Twain, with Henry L. Clark as associate editor. It's last issue was September 1, 1877 when it was absorbed by the Herald & Globe Association.

Rutland Leader was published from January 1, 1877-September 1, 1879 by Henry Clark who sold to James L. McArthur, who changed it to the Rutland Daily & Weekly Times, which was discontinued after a few issues.

The Rutland Inquirer was published on January 1, 1878 by Vincent C. Meyerhoffer and purchased in 1879 by Horace W. Love who consolidated it with the Rutland Review which he had started April 2, 1878 and renamed it The Review-Inquirer. After August 5, 1880 the Review and Inquirer were published as separate papers. In 1886 the Review was merged into The Rutland Evening Telegram and continued until 1891.

The Rutland Express was printed in 1886 by the Tuttle Co. for Jewitt P. Cain for about one year.

The Rutland Standard was started on September 23, 1881 by George E. Richardson and continued for four or five years.

The Rutland Evening News was started in February, 1899 by Charles T. Fairfield.

The Vermont Union Signal, the organ of organized labor, was published by Dodge & Lull beginning in 1903. Its last issue was October 10, 1908.

Ragged Edge, also known as Barbed Wire, by A.A. Deming ["published whenever the boss takes a notion"] was doubtless the epitome of independence for which Rutland newspapers were noted. Mr. Deming ignored printing presses, made up his paper with pen and ink, and reproduced it on a mimeograph.

There are numerous other periodicals and papers mentioned in Horace Bailey's article. The High School Notes and The Oread and its successor were published monthly [while in session] by the students of Rutland High School. Should there be an interested party doing research on publications in Rutland's history, herein lies a beginning!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Clipping from a scrapbook at the Rutland Historical Society

Rutland Herald, May 1945

Cook Book Helps to Spread Fame of Vermont All Over the World

While state publicity and recreation groups are doing much to publicize the assets of Vermont, the women of Trinity Mission of Trinity Church Rutland and the Women's Service League of St. Paul's Church in Burlington, in an appealing and profitable way, have spread the fame of the state and its culinary art through their cook book, "Out of Vermont Kitchens."

With the ninth printing just off the press, 43,000 copies are in circulation in all parts of the world, including such far-off places as England and Hawaii. When the present supply is disposed of Trinity Mission will have accounted for the distribution of 31,000 copies and the Burlington organization, 12,000.

The cookbook plan was originated in Rutland in 1939 by Mrs. Esme A.C. Smith as president of Trinity Mission and Mrs. Francis E. Bowker as vice president, and it was decided to meet with Mrs. Eben Sutton, president of the Women's Service League in Burlington, and enlist the cooperation of that organization in broadening the scope of the proposed publication. The original cookbook committee in Rutland comprised Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Bowker, Mrs. Percy P. Wood, Mrs. Morgan Ashley and Mrs. Prescott Wellman. In addition to the original group it later included Mrs. Charlotte Nicolet, who replaced Mrs. Ashley, Mrs. Harvey Butterfield, Mrs. Marvelle C. Webber, Mrs. Henry G. Smith and Mrs. Henry Wood, in addition to Trinity Mission's officers, Mrs. Albert W. Edson, Mrs. Fred C. Spencer, Mrs. Charles H. Roberts, Mrs. Miriam Stowell and Mrs. Herbert Fostman.

A recipe committee consisting of Mrs. Wood, Mrs. Ashley, Mrs. Marvelle C. Webber and Mrs. Henry G. Smith, assisted by Mrs. Edwin W. Lawrence, Mrs. Dorothy Dorsey and other members, worked on the choice of recipes submitted by friends and members of the Rutland and Burlington organizations. Each contributor's recipe is reproduced in her own handwriting, signed with her name and illustrated in an unusual manner. The art work in the book has added greatly to the appeal and many of the drawings were made by Mrs. Wellman, the late Mrs. Nephele Williams, Mrs. Norman Johnson, Mrs. Alice Danolds and Burlington artists. Payson R. Webber drew the attractive cover. Mrs. Danolds, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Louise Hadley Fiske drew several of the advertisements.

Nearly every mail brings comments or inquiries about the book from many places, Mrs. Smith said. Most recent inquiries came from book dealers in "Oklahoma and California. Shopping columns, women's pages and culinary editors in practically every large paper in the country have commented on the Vermont cookbook. Recently Trinity Mission received a clipping from an Akron, Ohio paper, calling the publication to the attention of brides.

“They would certainly chuckle should a copy of ‘Out of Vermont’ be included” the article stated, continuing: “Amusing you say; what’s funny about a cook book? Even you who dislike that phase of housekeeping would chuckle, probably succumb to the temptation of trying to make a batch of holiday cookies should you see the stick drawing of an impish kid in a cap attacking a cookie jar, the label of which bears the warning ‘Keep Out’... There’s everything in that book from bean rarebit, baked cabbage and angel cake to Bombay curry and Chinese chop suey. Evidently the Vermonter traveled a bit. The very clever drawings are what lifts this book far above the ordinary.... Aside from the humor, New England cooks, especially Vermonters, have a reputation for preparing good food. This laugh-provoking volume really bulges with treasured family recipies that any bride should be happy to own.”

“We never tire of our work on the book,” the Trinity Mission women said recently. “It just sells itself.” With profits from the cookbook the members of Trinity Mission have proudly added improvements to church property. They have decorated the rectory, remodeled the kitchen of the parish house, painted the interior of the church and recently voted \$750 for lanterns in the church chancel and for generally improving the lighting system.

[The Rutland Historical Society is in possession of a copy of this cookbook. If you wish to take a look at it, come and visit the Society on Mondays from 6-9 PM or Saturdays from 1-4 PM.]

Tidbits from Then and Now

On June 10, 1999 I wrote my first *Tidbits From Then and Now*. [My how time flies!] Since it has been SIX YEARS since the first article introducing you to the Rutland Historical Society, I thought you might like an update on the goings-on at the Society since that time.

As you know, the Rutland Historical Society is a non-profit organization, staffed entirely by volunteers, [and we're always looking for more help!]. The Society is located in the old Nickwackett Fire Station on Center Street and is open to the public on Monday evenings from 6-9 PM. and Saturdays from 1-4 PM, and can be opened for groups or out of town travelers by appointment. The Society has had groups of school classes as well as college classes and many visitors researching family or local history.

Committees that catalogue materials that have been donated to the Society meet on Wednesday morning and evening as well as Thursday afternoon.

The present exhibit is on Rutland Homes & Gardens with photos of flowers from the past, from the Brehmer collection.

In my first "Tidbit," I spoke of the Quarterly about a 1919 trip to the Gila National Forest which was written by Ella Bean Livingston. In May of this year, my husband, Jim, and I had the opportunity to go to New Mexico. We visited the Gila National Forest and members of the Forest Service were very interested in obtaining copies of that particular Quarterly and the possibility of having some pictures copied from the collection of Indian artifacts in the possession of the Society. [Would you believe I actually climbed all the way up to the cliff dwellings!]

The Society continues to produce "Historically Speaking" on cable channel 15 in Rutland having produced 64 episodes to date. July became "rerun month" as five shows were selected from the first year and a half of the series so that committee members doing the programs could "catch a summer break," and viewers could have a second chance to view some of the more popular shows that they might have missed.

Two very exciting things have also happened at the Society. First we have "ELMO" [who you ask? Not who, but what.] ELMO is a video recorder and is free for use by the public. The only thing needed is to supply your own tape. Instructions can be had to produce a tape of your family pictures, events or even make a tape for an anniversary or birthday, with or without sound. The ELMO's use has already created a thrill for several older family members.

Secondly, the Society has a web site. As of February 14, 2005 the site has received over 25,000 "hits" or usage's. The free message board has received a number of queries and the web site committee has continued to meet and fine tune the site. If you have a question or are looking for information about a family or the Rutland area, log on to <http://www.rutlandhistory.com> . Give us a call or drop in and see how exciting history can be.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald August 10, 1918

War Tax on Syrup Cuts Profit on Soda

Summer Beverage Dispensers and Pool Operators "Touched" by U.S.

The small boy and the older ice cream soda "regulars" need not be surprised to learn of another jump in the price of these popular summer drinks for several of the dealers in the city recently received a visit from L.W. Cyr, representing the Internal Revenue collector at Portsmouth, N.H. All dealers have been taxed five cents a gallon for chocolate syrup, made since the new tax went into effect. There is also a penalty for not making payments on scheduled dates.

The local dealers claim it was through ignorance of the law and not through any attempt to evade payment of the proper government fees that they must undergo the penalty. They knew that there was a tax of five cents a gallon on all syrups, but a majority of these syrups are purchased from manufacturers who pay the tax and then raise the wholesale price. Many Rutland County soda fountain owners, however, make their own chocolate syrup and none thought about the five cent tax.

Special Agent Cyr has also been extracting money from several secret societies of the city who have pool and billiard tables. In some instances a penalty was paid because the owners failed to pay the tax within a stated period. The law says that the tax shall be placed on all tables for pool or billiards outside of those in private houses. Many thought tables were exempt where no income was derived.

A number of Secret Services and other government agents have been in the city during the last few days on various matters, including offenses against the Harrison Drug Act, income tax men looking up Rutland citizens as far back as 1913, and other lines of government investigation. The men left yesterday, several of them for other parts of the State. Whether they found offenders in this section was not made public.

On another note and under *Rutland Briefs*:

The police received a complaint about a gang loitering in the Dorr bridge yesterday afternoon and the crowd was dispersed by officers. Besides liquid refreshments, which included a case of beer and several quarts of wine, the "boys" had a buffet lunch laid out on the bridge stringers. [I wonder if they had paid their liquor tax!]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, August 16, 1918

News of the City

Fred W. Savage, a well known Rutland man is incarcerated because of what his friends call the efforts of the "rubber trust", because of his desire to use his patents on rubber shoes and boots.

Mr. A.B. Schuyler of Adams, NY is making another attempt for his freedom and states: "Fred W. Savage, an inventive genius can be pictured as the former lad leaving his parents' home to seek broader fields to market his inventions. He soon drifted to Boston, the home of rubber production and markets of trade. There he found himself in the business whirl where millions daily change hands, where sharpers lie in wait to fleece their lambs.

"On the door of 36 Lincoln Street reads 'F.W. Savage Rubber Company'. A large painting of a large combination boot was painted on his window. A peep in there would show prosperity well established.

"The process of vulcanizing rubber by steam heat, dispensing with hot air heat is his invention. Hot air tends to burn the rubber, destroying the adhesive and cohesive powers, centrifugal and centripetal forces that hold the molecules and atoms of the rubber compound together while being vulcanized. Steam does not destroy said process forces, but increases its elasticity fifty percent. Many rubber companies, though they once called him a fool, are now using his process which they decline to pay for.

"Fred W. Savage, originally of Granville, Washington County, New York later of Boston and New York has had a stormy career. He has been granted a large number of patents on his inventions, some of them quite valuable and now in common use. He has an agreeable nature and friends in nearly every large city east of the Mississippi. He is of a very social disposition. He neither uses tobacco or intoxicants and is courtly and elegant in manner and speech.

"About 1908 he made a contract with the Hood Rubber Company of Boston. He was fast making his mark in the financial world when agents of the rubber system caused him to be incarcerated in an asylum near Boston. This was done without notice to his relatives or his attorney. His friends came to his relief and are still seeking his release."

[We have to wonder if his release was obtained. Does anyone remember the name Fred W. Savage or any of his inventions?]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, Friday, October 4, 1957

Three Army Officers, Pilot Missing on Flight From New York to Burlington

The Vermont Civil Air Patrol was planning to start an air search for a light Army plane carrying three officers and a pilot missing on a flight from Governors Island, NY to Burlington. First Army headquarters at New York said the L20 Beaver, a six passenger single-engine craft, left Fort Jay airstrip on the island Wednesday [October 2nd] at 7:09 am. The flight would normally take about three hours.

The officers had been sent to Burlington in connection with training activities of reserve components in Vermont. The CAP was notified of the missing plane at 7:55 PM by the Air Rescue Service at Westover Air Force Base, Chicopee Falls, MA. Col. Gray S. Clark of the Vermont Wing was informed the plane's possible route was along the Hudson River to Albany, NY and from there up the western side of Vermont.

At Ethan Allen Air Force Base officials said that the plane had been scheduled to land there at 10:30 AM Wednesday and the tower reported receiving a call from the plane asking for weather information and reporting the craft was 40 miles from the base. Later when the plane did not check for landing instructions a search was started, but information was received that the plane had landed at Hartford, CT.

It was not discovered until Thursday that the plane was not in Hartford. At that time an alert was sent out and Air Force planes took to the air to search the proposed route. Air officials at Ethan Allen AFB said it was not unusual for a plane to change the flight plan, thus the delay in starting the search.

Saturday, October 5, 1957

Eighteen Vermont-based military and CAP planes soared in search of the missing craft over the dense woodlands of western Vermont and eastern New York yesterday. Planes from MA, CT, NY and NJ combed possible flight routes in their areas. Working in the VT search were planes flying from airports in Rutland, Burlington, Springfield, Barre, Newport, Bennington, Middlebury and Fair Haven. Four planes worked from the Rutland airport. CAP officials said five craft were standing by last night ready to go into action today. Control headquarters for the state search are at the Rutland airport. Col. Russell J. Goodrich headed the state search as mission commander.

During the afternoon yesterday, Col. Goodrich said the CAP had ten planes in the air. They continued the search until dusk. The planes were concentrating on an area 40 miles wide from Granville, NY to Burlington. There were strong northwest winds Wednesday which could have blown the plane off course said Goodrich. Maj. David Young of the Vermont wing reported one other possible clue. A Castleton woman reported hearing a low flying aircraft sometime about 10

AM Wednesday over the Hubbardton area. This would coincide with a possible route up the western side of the state and could place the plane in the Hubbardton area or in the Lake Dunmore, Goshen and Forest Dale region. The plane's color, olive drab, may make it difficult to spot from the air against autumn foliage.

Thursday, October 10, 1957

Today local searchers will stand by for orders from a coordinating officer from New York City who is scheduled to arrive this morning for a personal look at the terrain, said CAP Lt. Col. Russell Goodrich of Rutland. Yesterday several persons said they saw "a plane low over the treetops." It turned out to be one of the search planes first on the scene last Wednesday.

Friday, October 11, 1957

Army Orders 65 Aircraft Into State on Intensive Hunt for Four Officers Missing Since Monday in Flight From New York; CAP and Air Force Stand By

The army yesterday girded itself for an intensive, all-out hunt for the Army aircraft which disappeared nine days ago and is believed down in the southern Vermont area. Five helicopters and 60 liaison "hedge-hoppers" will crisscross this entire area--which includes parts of New York State bordering Lake Champlain--if the weather is good today. First Army headquarters in New York said 180 officers and men would take part. The Army thus officially takes over from the Civil Air Patrol and Air Force, although those units will cooperate with the searchers on a standby basis.

Saturday October 12, 1957

Lost Plane Found In Chittenden

The upended wreckage of the small Army aircraft which disappeared October 2nd with four officers aboard was spotted yesterday in Chittenden on the east slope of Lookoff Mountain, about eight miles southeast of Lake Dunmore. The plane was spotted at 2:25 PM yesterday by Capt. James D. Vaughn who was piloting an Army plane. His observer was M/Sgt. Henry Lusignan of the U.S. Army advisor group of the New Jersey National Guard. Only an olive drab wing was clearly in sight. The bright yellow "U.S.Army" and numerals on the wing and tail assembly were obscured by the autumn foliage and the angle of the wreckage. According to Capt. DeForest Ballou, information officer and First Army spokesman, the weather was "too rough to lower a man from a helicopter. The wreck can be reached only from the ground."

After the helicopter crew spotted the wreckage they veered west and found a landing place on pasture land of the old Redfield Proctor farm in Goshen off Rte. 73. The 'copter set down next to the Clifford Orvis tenant home. Orvis and the farm caretaker, Harry Labare, were outside. The Army men used Labare's telephone to call Ethan Allen Air Force Base and the other searching planes were informed of the discovery.

Lookout Mountain is adjacent to Bloodroot Mountain, southeast of the Proctor farm which is about a mile between Goshen Four Corners and Rte. 73's intersection with the so-called "Goshen Hollow Rd." Army men told Orvis they planned to drop personnel at the plane today to protect the area from curiosity seekers. Orvis said the Army men also inquired if anyone in the area had a power saw. He said he owned one. "It looks like they'll have to cut their way in." he conjectured.

Plans to reach the wreckage were revealed last night by State's Atty. Theodore G. Corsones of Rutland. State Police from Rutland and Addison districts will meet with Army men and other searchers at Goshen Corners on Rte. 73 prior to 7 AM today. Local woodsmen have volunteered to guide the party over an old forest trail heading directly south for two and a half miles to the foot of Lookoff Mountain's eastern slope.

Officers in the lost plane were Col. David M. Perkins, 51, of Wichita Falls, TX; Col Emery E. Hyde, 48, of Eugene, Ore; Lt. Col. Clinton G. Merrill, 44 of DeWitt, NY and the pilot, Capt. Eual A. Athley [Cathey], 33, of Brooklyn, NY.

This article was triggered by an E-mail received on August 10th from Capt. J. M. Cathey, USN, whose father was the pilot of the lost plane. He and his brothers are coming to the area to locate the site of the crash toward the end of August, and asked for any information we could find. The pilot was survived by his wife and children, the oldest being approximately 12 years and the wife pregnant with twin girls. Dr. William Powers was the medical examiner at the crash site. If anyone has a memory of being involved with this crash please contact Jim Davidson at 773-7525.

Tidbits from Then and Now

1922
RUTLAND FAIR
Sept. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9
New England's Biggest Event

Listed among the attractions:

Twombly's Aerial Circus--3 planes
Wonderful midair Death Defying
Stunts Daily

Rutland Daily Herald Sept. 7, 1922

"Flying Parson" and 3 others killed in 2 air crashes at Rutland's Big Fair

Fully 25,000 people witnessed the horrible airplane accident yesterday which resulted in the death of "The Flying Parson," Lieut. Belwin W. Maynard, and two companions. It was Governor's Day at the fair with the sun shining on a record-breaking crowd of carefree people until 12:50 o'clock, when the aviators ended a spectacular nosedive in death.

With "The Flying Parson," at the time of his accident, were Lieut. Norman H. Wood of Ticonderoga NY and Mechanic Louis W. Beyette of Shoreham, both of whom died in the harness of their profession with Lieut. Maynard. The tragedy occurred at Kelley field, which the men with Trombley's Flying circus use as a flying center. The manager of the circus gave as the cause of the accident a misjudging by Maynard, who was flying the plane.

The plane had been up about 20 minutes when the accident occurred. Finding the plane working beautifully, according to the circus manager, they decided to attempt a nosedive before alighting, but they were too close to the ground Trombley said. The Avro machine soared to a height of about 3000 feet. Then a graceful, gliding, sinuous descent began. The machine moved downward at first slowly, then gained speed and finally was righted by the pilot who turned his air vehicle, first from south to north, then from east to west. Again a graceful descent began. This time it was done in a series of glides, sort of air steps. When the plane got to an altitude of about 800 feet it was turned nose downward for the final drop to earth. Down it catapulted, rushing earthward at terrific speed. There was no stopping the fearful descent. The plane struck the ground with a crash.

Rutland Daily Herald, Sept. 8, 1922

"Daredevil" Smith, Balloonist, falls 800 feet to death, parachute failing

Death again stalked through the upper air reaches at the Rutland Fair yesterday afternoon, claiming for its fourth victim "Daredevil" Smith, Boston parachute jumper.

Smith, aged 43, an expert balloonist of 10 years experience, plunged 800 feet to the ground when his third and final parachute failed to open as he was executing a triple parachute drop, on his second ascension of the day. Smith apparently was unaffected by the airplane fatality of the previous day. His first ascension of the afternoon had been made without mishap. The air was ideal for ballooning. With no more concern than the average person would show in entering a motor car, Smith stepped through the thongs of the safety belt and waved his hand as a signal for his assistants to drop the restraining ropes. When he had gained the height of about 3500 feet, he pulled the cut-a-way cord. Down he dropped for approximately 300 feet when the topmost chute opened. Smith again tugged at the cut-a-way cord. Down he rushed for another 300 feet, when the second chute opened to check his descent. Again he reached for the cut-a-way cord and once more Smith plunged downward 300 feet. The chute failed to open and Smith plunged to the ground.

Smith had had several narrow escapes from death. Though another parachute jumper, "Joe" Lynch was at the fair, no further ascents were made.

Excerpts from letters acquired from a local estate concerning the deaths of "Daredevil" Smith and "Flying Parson" Maynard follow:

Corp. Harry E. Nelson Post No. 63, Wakefield, MA Sept. 12, 1922 to American Legion Post 31, Rutland, VT

Just a word thanking the members of your Post for the excellent treatment accorded the body of the late Comrade Henry A. Smith of Cliftondale, MA and also to the relatives of our comrade. Although he was not a member of any post in the American Legion, the Legion of Wakefield gave him the same service as it would to one of its own members, as we discovered he was a member of the 1st Aero Squadron.

Thomas F. Kenney, Vice Commander

Personal note from (Mrs.) Belwin W. Maynard to Mr. Jones of the Rutland American Legion:

It was with great pleasure I received your letter immediately following my husband's death. It seems that all the flying men with whom Mr. Maynard was associated forgot to send me any message of any kind directly following the accident.....My first knowledge of the tragedy came through the Associated Press. Your letter is the only one I have received from Rutland giving me any information about what happened directly concerning the accident. Words cannot express my gratitude to you and other members of the American Legion for what you have done for me.

[It's amazing how so many pieces can come together from so many different sources. It's Fair time again, but as we all know, rides, entertainment, food and exhibits are totally different from the fair of "years gone by." **Enjoy Fair Week !**]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 12, 1922

**Jack Crowley Chosen Legion Head
Rutland Post Condemns Ku Klux Klan**

Judge Leonard F. Wing introduced a resolution condemning the Ku Klux Klan. It was unanimously adopted.

Excerpts of letters found in an estate donation to the Rutland Historical Society

December 12, 1922; Hon. Frank L. Greene, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.: My Dear Mr. Greene, I am enclosing herewith a copy of a resolution unanimously adopted by this Post at its annual meeting held Monday evening, December 11, 1922. Very truly yours, Jack A. Crowley, Adjutant.

WHEREAS: it appears that there is in this country, an organization known as the Ku Klux Klan, the purpose of which is we believe, to be opposed to many of the fundamental principles of our Government, and WHEREAS; said organization is increasing in numbers daily throughout the length and breadth of our land and has, we understand, even invaded the borders of our commonwealth, and WHEREAS; The American Legion from its inception has espoused the cause of American Liberty, as brought forth by the bloodshed and sacrifice of our forefathers and preserved by our comrades in arms, and has demanded respect and obedience to duly constituted authority, NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by Rutland Post No. 31 American Legion, department of Vermont, in meeting now assembled, that we are opposed to the extension of this organization within our city, state and nation; that we call upon the proper officers of the law to take immediate and vigorous steps to stamp out this octopus that threatens to crush the very vitals of our national existence. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of this Post, and that copies of the same be forthwith forwarded to the President of the United States, the Governor of the State of Vermont, and the Representatives of this State in the national Congress. Leonard F. Wing.

December 14, 1922; Mr. Jack A. Crowley, Adjutant, Rutland Post #31, American Legion. Dear Mr. Crowley; It was good of you to write me as you did December 12, 1922, in regard to the resolutions adopted by Rutland Post #31, American Legion, on the Ku Klux Klan. There is no need for me to tell you that I am opposed to any organization that attempts to usurp the police and judicial powers of a community in order to enforce its own narrow principles on the public through terrorism. Thanking you for making known to me the views of your Post, I am Sincerely yours, Frank L. Greene.

Also found with these letters was an interesting twist in correspondence which follows:

Dec. 12, 1922, Mr. George Jones, Commander American Legion. Dear Commander: According to telephone conversation of this day I am writing you to request that I be dropped from the

American Legion, as of my request and not for non-payment of dues. To be dropped from this or any other organization for non-payment of dues is against my wishes, and as I will be dropped the first of the coming year for that reason please consider this as a request to be dropped at my request. Hoping to receive a letter or some other document stating that my wishes have been complied with, I am Respectfully, Leslie V. Baird.

December 18, 1922. Mr. Leslie V. Baird, 47 Adams St. City. Dear Sir, The request contained in yours of the 12th will be complied with as soon as you have returned your membership card for this year. Same can be returned to Jones, Cocklin or myself. Very truly yours, Jack A. Crowley.

Dec. 28, 1922. Dear Sir, You are this day being dropped from membership in this Post, in compliance with your request over the phone last evening. Very truly yours, Jack A. Crowley, Adjutant.

[One has to wonder if Mr. Baird was not present to be counted in the unanimous vote or was he opposed to the result of the vote].

October 17, 1924

Herald Reporter Exposes Ku Klux; He is Threatened Hooded Society Holds Secret Session in Apollo Hall

"The hooded cobra in the guise of the Ku Klux Klan reared its obscene head in Rutland last night.

"An attempt was made to organize a branch of the secret society but the presence of a reporter for the *Herald* had a deterrent effect, only four men signing the fearsome document, paying in their initiation fee of \$10 each.

"A meeting, called by an individual styling himself "TI BO Tim," was held in Apollo Hall and thereby hangs a tale of threats and browbeating, the victim of which was *The Herald* representative. When it was learned that the reporter was in the hall, the hooded cobra slithered forward enough to exude its venom.

"The reporter was hauled into a dark side room and put through a sort of stage third degree. Later it was darkly hinted that if "anything appeared in the *Herald*" he, the reporter, would "never write another story." It must be left to the intelligent reader what was meant by this statement.

"There were only about 40 persons in the hall and the queerest thing of all was that a member of the Rutland police force--Patrolman Kenneth Preston,---officiated as "inner guard." Although the officer was not in uniform he officiated as a klansman although he had not been detailed to attend the meeting by his superior, Chief of Police E. H. Lawson. The chief was asked by the *Herald* if he had detailed Patrolman Preston to attend the meeting of the hooded klan and his reply was an emphatic "no."

It was through the patrolman that the attention of a man named Wimble, the High Mucky Muck of the meeting, was called to the presence of the reporter of the *Herald*. Officiating as an officer of the klan meeting he denounced the reporter to the chief klansman and reiterated that the reporter was not what he pretended to be but a representative of this newspaper.

The fun started. The klansmen feared the *Herald* would do what it is doing this morning---exposing the working of a secret organization which has been endeavoring for a long period to gain a foothold here. The story of what actually happened last night is best told in the reporter's own words. [His story is continued next week].

Tidbits from Then and Now

Continued from the Rutland Daily Herald October 17, 1924

HERALD REPORTER EXPOSES KU KLUX; HE IS THREATENED

The Reporter's Story

A secret meeting of the Ku Klux Klan was held last evening in the Apollo Hall on Merchants Row. Entrance was by card only. About 40 persons were in the hall. The meeting consisted merely of a talk on Klan principles by the speaker and the asking of the men to sign up.

I was assigned to the Klan story and went to the Apollo Hall. I tried the door and it was locked, but after a moment or so it was opened by a young man about 20 years old. There was but one other man in the room at the time. He was at the furthest end and had his back turned to me.

I looked about the room and seeing there was no one there but the two men, asked if a meeting was to be held there. The young man said that there was and asked me if I had a card. I produced the admission card which I had. It was accepted and I was allowed to enter. I took off my overcoat and took a seat. By that time the man in the rear came down the hall and the younger man showed him my card. He read it and then called me over to him and asked me how I came in possession of the card. I told him that a friend gave it to me. He asked me my business and I told him that I was a salesman. That satisfied the man.

No more was said until the arrival of Kenneth Preston, an officer on the local police force. It developed that Preston was no other than the inside keeper of the door.

Upon seeing me sitting in the hall Preston told the klansman in charge that I was a reporter for the *Rutland Herald*. The man at once came over to me and called me to the end of the hall and put the matter up to me point-blank, also asking me if I was not the man who interviewed a supposed member of the Klan sometime ago. I admitted the latter, but told the man that I severed connections with the paper a week ago. This seemed to pass for a while.

He left me sitting in the hall and went into the front room. Very soon he sent a man out to me asking me to step into the room. The room was all in darkness and contained two chairs, one of which the klansman was occupying. I took the other one. He then questioned me as to my connections with *The Herald*, which I denied. We had a talk about the newspapers and the Klan.

He informed me that in the local Klan there were a number of Rutland's most important business men and that the only reason they were not present was because of the meeting of the Masons. He told me that if those men were present they could, and would, make it very uncomfortable for me. He finally appeared to be impressed that I was there for no other purpose than to gain personal information. He told me that I might come into the meeting.

When I went into the hall again the men were assembled and waiting for the klansman who was to address them.

He began his address by stating to the assemblage that there was a member of *The Rutland Herald* staff in the hall, who had come evidently with the intention of gaining information for his paper and "smearing it over its pages." He explained that I had come in on a regular card. It was suggested that I be made to tell who gave me the card. This, however, was not acted upon.

I was asked to stand up before the assemblage, put my left hand over my heart and hold up my right hand and repeat an oath after the leader. I did this.

At the present time I cannot remember just what was said in detail, except that I must not tell the name of anyone in the hall, what took place there, put into print, write, cause to be written or put into print anything about the meeting. The klansman further added as a threat to me that if anything appeared in the morning *Herald*, I would never write another story.

The klansman, who gave his name to me as Wimble, or something to that effect, but whom I heard referred to by the members as Parks, began his speech as follows:

"Klansmen contend, and defy any man to disprove their contentions that the Protestant Christian citizens of this country have as much right to organize an all-Protestant society as the Roman Catholics and Jews have to organize their all-Catholic and all-Jewish societies. Klansmen are not 'against' the Catholics or 'against' the Jews, but are 'for' Protestant Christianity first, last and all the time.

"The Roman Catholic excludes himself from membership in the Klan by owing allegiance to a foreigner or foreign institution. Klansmen contend that no person owing allegiance to any foreigner, foreign government, person, prince or potentate, ecclesiastical or otherwise, can be a 100 percent American and are therefore not eligible for membership in the organization.

"The Jew excludes himself from membership in the Klan by refusing to accept the Christian religion. The American-born Jew, if he would accept Jesus Christ and make his moral standards to measure up to Christian requirements, would be eligible for membership. Many klansmen believe, under such conditions, he would make a good klansman.

"The Jew is essentially an alien, non-assimilative and clannish to a degree. From the earliest history of the race, the Jew has considered material success an unmistakable mark of Divine approval, consequently his code of business ethics does not always harmonize with Christian ideas or Christian principles.

"Klansmen commend the clannishness of the Jew, knowing that it is one of the main reasons for his universal success. God bless him, he takes care of his own and sees that no Jew goes without assistance in time of need."

He further stated that by the last of 1925 he would have 2000 klansmen in hoods and gowns marching down the main street of this city. He asked that the city supply 1500 men and he would supply the rest from the surrounding towns. He further said that by that time there would be in office here a mayor who would allow the Klan to parade and a chief of police who would walk at their head. (much applause.)

After saying a bit more about Klan principles he asked that every man who believed in the principles, as he pictured them, to stand up. Every man in the hall stood up. He then asked for candidates.

The men were reticent at first to sign and it was some time before one got up enough courage to sign. Finally four men pledged themselves, signed the charter and told the name of the friend who brought them to the meeting and paid their admittance fee of \$10.

Wimble or Parks is a man about 40 years of age. He wore a rather dark gray suit last night and a tan colored overcoat and a soft hat. He is a nice appearing man and claims to have a wife and child in the city with him.

The men at the meeting, as a whole were rough appearing men, apparently of the laboring class, with two or three exceptions. The majority of them were young men about the age of 25 or under.

[The year 1925 never did see a Klan parade in Rutland. It would appear that Rutland never became fertile ground for the Ku Klux Klan.]

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Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, April 9, 1908

COCK FIGHT HELD ON CREEK ROAD

Event Pulled Off Last Night in a Secluded Spot

A few local sportsmen reinforced by a couple from East Dorset, one or two from Whitehall and two from Granville, NY went to a lonely and secluded spot on the Creek Road Thursday night and held a real cock fight---for fun, money and, incidentally, of course, the furtherance of the "manly" (?) sport. There were about 20 men present, all bent upon contributing their share toward making it a success in defiance of the laws of the state and public sentiment which, they say, does not lend its sanction to the slaughtering of the birds for amusement.

There were 14 birds entered, six of which lay dead in the feathered arena when the battle was over. Originally it was planned to hold the fight in the solemn silence of the midnight hour; but the "bunch" got together a few hours earlier and decided to take a chance, trusting to Morpheus' liking for the constable in the town of Rutland. Accordingly, some went to the designated place in teams [carriages], while others, conspicuously unsportsman-like, did a "hot-foot"[ran in]. The generally deserted spot was soon the scene of activity and the mix-up followed.

Rutland birds were, as a rule, successful. The sports from East Dorset lost two birds and a small bundle of negotiable currency, probably a portion of the profits from maple sugar trade. The parties from the Empire state lost three birds, two of the "dead ones" being credited to Whitehall and the other to Granville. The one lost by Rutland parties was as good as dead before it was thrown into the pit at all. It had been a "hero" in many a battle, but had long since outlived its usefulness and its owners, wishing to see it "die game", made it take the spurs.

Considerable money changed hands and all those present were evidently pleased because Rutland is a licensed town [able to serve liquor]. Some of them, winners and losers alike, and even the representatives from the country. were pretty well "piped."

Why did I choose this as a column? Because of the picture. On a page dated in April in a 1908 diary I found the picture of this fighting cock. There was no indication as to why it was in the diary. When I showed it to a relative of the diary writer, I was told that a family member had [illegally?] raised fighting cocks. Then by pure coincidence in the April 9, 1908 newspaper appeared the article about the illegal cock fight. My assumption is that the author of the diary felt bad about the death of the cock and placed the picture in the diary on the same date.

Suddenly a thought strikes me. How did the reporter of this article know so many details about the cock fight?

Tidbits from Then and Now

Just a couple of interesting tidbits that you might enjoy.

Rutland Weekly Herald, November 17, 1905

TOUCHED THEIR HEARTS

Little 11-year-old Annie Shannon, who was brought to this city by her sister Bessie about a week ago and who is at present living at the home of her sister, Mrs. C.J. Roche on State Street, is quite a promising little Irish girl and for one of her age has had a wide and varied experience.

Leaving Ireland on the 4th, and crossing the Atlantic alone, she was detained by the immigration officials for nearly a week and just escaped being deported on account of the law passed some time ago, requiring the deportation of minors not accompanied by their parents.

Annie's singing captivated the hearts of the officials and succeeded in making them disregard the laws of the United States and let her accompany her sister to Rutland.

Annie came to the country on the Campania. The little girl, who was seen by a *Herald* reporter yesterday, is a handsome child, with bright blue eyes and rosy cheeks, speaks the Irish language fluently and is adept in the art of buck and wing dancing. While in Limerick, Ireland, she was a member of the Juvenile Irish Ladies' choir, trained by the Irish Ladies' choir, which recently appeared in this city, and traveled all through Ireland. She will probably sing in Rutland some time this winter.

April 9, 1908

GUN CLUB FORMED

About 20 men interested in forming a gun club met at the office of Judge J.A. Merrill last night for the purpose of organization and election of officers. Dr. Charles A. Gale was elected president and R.W. Wheeler secretary and treasurer. These officers are temporary and the understanding is that the offices can be filled permanently at a later meeting. Committees were appointed for the drawing up of by-laws for the government of the club, also for repairing the grounds.

Several members of the newly formed gun club tried their hands at the traps in the rear of the Davis brickyard on Park Street Saturday. The cold wind made it necessary to wear overcoats and no very high scores were made.

On Jue 17 & 18, 1910, the Vermont Gun Club held a shoot at the range on Park Street

April 9, 1908

DUFFY & CLIFFORD DISSOLVE

The firm of Duffy & Clifford, one of the oldest firms in the city, dissolved partnership Wednesday after being in business 26 years to a day. During these years the firm has built up a large coal and wood business with an office on West Street, also a large grocery and meat trade, with a store on Evelyn Street. The dissolution, which was by mutual consent will not mean the discontinuance of either business, as each will conduct one of the branches. Hugh Duffy now owns and will conduct the coal and wood business, with an office on West Street, and M.J. Clifford, the junior member of the firm, will conduct the grocery and meat market on Evelyn Street.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Collections of pictures, notes and a booklet on file at the Rutland Historical Society, show a picture of the courage and determination of Rutland citizens in the past decades. The southern states battled some terrible storms in the past weeks, but if the younger generation of Rutland citizens can see how the Rutland area survived some "bad times" of their own, they will understand why the people of Rutland have always been known for their generosity when others need their help.

Vermont's Worst Flood, November 19, 1927

Abnormal rainfall of nearly 6" in October and more than 8" in a 24 hour period in early November proved too much for the usual water courses.

A total of 75 lives were lost through drowning and 9 more through flood related incidences. Forty one towns and cities in Vermont suffered losses while 18,880 lives were directly affected. Three hundred buildings were completely destroyed and 1247 more were badly damaged.

Jackson Avenue after the flood

Behind MSJ/ Rice Street

Proctor train station during flood

Proctor train station after flood

On June 3, 1947 rain-swollen waters burst through and around the East Pittsford power dam on East Creek, six miles northeast of Rutland shortly after 8 PM, tearing away pipe lines to the Rutland reservoir, plunging the city into darkness and forcing the evacuation of more than 500 families from Mill Village and lower areas of Rutland City.

Declaring a state of emergency about 9 PM, Mayor Wayne N. Temple, through the local radio station, mobilized the Rutland National Guard Company, American Legion and other veterans organizations for emergency service.

As fast as possible families living in the areas of Water Street, Cleveland Avenue, Baxter Street, State Street, West Street, Meadow Street and others were moved from their homes as the rapidly rising waters of East Creek in the western city limits of Rutland came up as high as nine feet, practically covering the first floor of all buildings and homes in these areas.

Rutland from the air 1947 flood

Homes on Cleveland Ave.

Car near bridge abutments on River Street

A common sight day-by-day

Eyewitnesses of the flooded regions spoke of the deep mire, mud, and debris wrought by the flood at its height. "We have equipment enough. The shortage is one of manpower," the mayor emphasized in his radio appeal for cleanup help. All observers paid tribute to the fight being put up by those affected by the flood against trying circumstances.

So, just because you live in Rutland, Vermont, do not assume that you are safer from the waters that "Mother Nature" may throw your way as she has done down south in Louisiana and vicinity. What you can assume is the generosity of the people of Rutland who have always come forward to help when there is a time of need.

[A visit to the Rutland Historical Society can provide more pictures and information regarding the 1927 and 1947 floods.]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Look what was happening in Rutland 100 years ago!

Rutland Weekly Herald, December 14, 1905

Rutland Men Will Try to Revive Sport

Plans for the organization of a trotting association, to include Rutland, Burlington, Port Henry, Addison Junction and Albany, N.Y. horses and their owners, is under consideration by Rutland horse owners.

Horsemen in all sections of the city, with whom a Herald reporter talked, said they were strongly in favor of such an association, and that they would be willing to assist the proposed circuit in any way they can, both financially as well as entering their horses. Many of the horsemen say that they favor the races taking place on the ice this winter, as such sport would be a drawing card for horsemen in all sections of the state.

The horsemen intend to have the biggest and most interesting ice races that have ever taken place in this state. Besides the financial aid from the street railway, which the horsemen feel confident will be forthcoming, there will be a certain amount of cash placed in the treasury by the local horsemen. Rutland is widely known throughout the state as the home of some speedy steppers, many of which have made their marks on the tracks in the grand circuits in past years. There is also a keen rivalry existing among owners of various horses as to which one has the speediest animal.

Many of them claim that they have "the only one" in their stables, but in order to settle the question, a series of ice races is desired and such races, the horsemen claim, will be on this winter, providing cash and labor will accomplish this result. It is proposed by some of the leading horsemen, to have two races each week in Rutland and other races in the towns and cities affiliated with the trotting circuit.

With the new circuit in force, the Rutland horses would be given a chance once or twice a week to show the New York state horsemen what kind of speed local horses possess. Attorney Walter K. Farnsworth, one of the best known horsemen in Rutland said that he was strongly in favor of the sport and believed, by careful management, the plan could be made a success. He is willing to be a member of the new association and will work hard, with others, to form the new circuit. There are many horsemen who favor the plans.

Rutland Weekly Herald, December 28, 1905

First Contest at the Driving Park

Providing \$300 can be raised this week among Rutland merchants and others interested, lovers of ice-racing will see some of the fastest New York and Vermont horses on the frozen waters in this

state this winter. A meeting of Vermont horsemen, in the parlors of the Berwick, was called for the purpose of discussing plans relating to the organization of a trotting association and racing on the ice this winter in various parts of the state.

It is the desire of Rutland horsemen, providing the required amount of cash can be raised, to have all of the home races held at the Rutland agricultural society track. This location is believed, by the Rutland supporters of racing to be the most central for such sport and with the races on these grounds a large attendance would be assured at each meet. [Sound familiar?]

It was decided that the executive committee should consist wholly of Rutland horsemen, as they could meet often and make whatever arrangements that were needed toward the completion of the organization and getting the races started. If the races take place in Rutland, according to every indication now, the trotting track will be flooded, and the people will be given an opportunity to witness some of the fastest speeding seen on ice in this section of the state for many years. At present the raceway, which is one half a mile in length, is in good condition, and covered with a thin coating of ice. As soon as the committee learns the amount of money possible to obtain, another meeting will be called and a report will be given. At the close of the meeting, the management of the Berwick Hotel assured the horsemen that they would assist the sport financially as well as in other ways.

[Apparently the street railway did not provide the support expected and the horsemen were raising the funds themselves.]

In 1905 it was horse ice-racing. In 2005 it's auto racing. Isn't it nice to know that the Rutland Fair grounds are so central and popular that all kinds of racers want to use the facilities?

Tidbits from Then and Now

Everyone knows about Main Street Park and Depot Park, but, how many know about the "Village Park", later known as the City Park and now not presently on the City map.

Proposition For Village Park

We, the undersigned, hereby agree to give and to deed to commissioners for the purposes of a park as hereinafter specified at any time within seven months, when the village of Rutland vote to accept the same upon the conditions hereto annexed, all our right, title and interest in and to the lands included within the following bounds:

Beginning at a stake near the northwest corner of the House of Correction lot, thence north 7 degrees east thirty-nine rods across lands of E. Pierpoint and others to the south line of R. Proctor's (Cain) farm, thence north 7 degrees east forty-nine rods to the southeast end of a large rock on said Proctor's land, thence south 83 degrees east about fifty rods to the foot of a high bank or bluff on the east side of East Creek on said Proctor's land, thence southerly and easterly, following the foot of said bluff, on the land of said Proctor and Mrs. Cain, and also on land belonging to Frederick Chaffee and J.L. Billings, till it intersects Baxter Street, as laid or proposed to be laid, across lands of said Chaffee and Billings, thence southerly on the line of Baxter Street and across lands of Edward Bowman and Orrick L. Robbins, to the southern line of Mineral Street [now part of Library that ran from Baxter to Pine Streets], thence westerly in continuation of the southern line of Mineral Street, to the place of beginning [northwest corner of House of Correction lot].

The conditions upon which this deed is to be made are as follows: That said land be held and used by said village and its successors as a corporation, as a public park; that the same be under the control and management of a board of three commissioners constituted and appointed as follows:--one of them to be the president of the board of village trustees or the chief executive officer of said village or corporation succeeding said village, whatever the name of said officer may be, the other two to be appointed by the chancellor of the Rutland County Court of Chancery, on the recommendation of a majority of the grantors of the land for said park, and to be subject to removal by him whenever he deems the interest of said village require it, and vacancies for any cause within the next ten years to be filled in the same manner by said chancellor whenever they may occur. That said village and its successors shall forever raise and pay to said commissioners annually sufficient funds to suitably and properly improve and maintain said premises for public use as a park, and to this end shall raise and pay to said commissioners not less than twenty-five hundred dollars within one year from the date of the deed, and the further sum of two thousand dollars within two years from said date, and the further sum of one thousand dollars within three years from said date and the further sum of five hundred dollars per year for the succeeding four years. But if said amount shall in the judgement of said commissioners not be required for use of said park within said times, then such balance is to be kept at interest by them for future use as required according to their judgment. It is further stipulated that out of the funds to be raised the first year, the east bank of the creek on the land now owned by Orrick L. Robbins, shall be properly and fully protected from washing by a wall

running from the south end of the present wall along the bank of the creek to the south line of the proposed park herein described, to a point opposite the northeast corner of the House of Correction lot, and about eighty feet distant therefrom, so as to give sufficient width for the flow of water.

And it is further stipulated that this conveyance and grant to be considered and accepted as a conveyance in trust for the use and benefit of the people of Rutland and vicinity as a public park, subject to the management and control of said commissioners for such purpose and no other, and who are to be amenable to law in their administration, management and control of said premises.

That upon failure to perform, fulfill or comply with any of the foregoing conditions, then said deed to be null and void, and said premises to revert to the grantor and his heirs.

E. Pierpoint,
Redfield Proctor,
Orrick L. Robbins
Mary B. Cain

Rutland, Nov. 17, 1881

If you are totally confused by the language in this proposition, the following map diagram might help to locate what was called the "Village Park"

Rutland Daily Herald, April 14, 1905

[FROM PARK TO PIT]

Used For The First Time

Pit for Disposal of City's Rubbish is Located in City Park

A pit constructed by Samuel Geno in City Park for the disposal of the city's rubbish was used last night for the first time.

The Pit is constructed of steel and is not unlike a huge vertical boiler as regards its outside appearance. It is seven feet in diameter and 12 feet in height, with an 18" stack 50' in height. In this pit it is intended that all inflammable material in the city's rubbish shall be burned and

residents of the city having rubbish to burn are expected to have it conveyed to the pit. [It's an incinerator!]

April 28, 1905

That the new pit constructed by Samuel Geno in City Park for the purpose of burning the city's refuse is being used to a large extent is evidenced by the fact that 35 loads of refuse were carted there and burned within five days. The refuse is all burned at a late hour at night after the majority of the residents are abed. [Wasn't that nice of them?]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Excerpts from a letter in *The Vermonter*, Vol. 33 #5, 1928
Pictures from Rutland Historical Society collections

Wednesday November 2, 1927

At the end of a perfect autumn day in Rutland, rain drops began to fall and grew to a steady rain through the night. By Thursday morning, the rain had swelled streams and rivers coursing through the state of Vermont. Rutland residents became aware that they were facing a serious flood disaster.

Houses began to flood, fires broke out and streets became impassable. The Armory on West Street was secured to shelter the hundreds of people escaping from the flooded homes. Many religious and civic organizations provided food. By evening, any form of transportation was impossible. Electrical power was gone and candles and some old kerosene lamps were used to provide lighting.

When the rain subsided, the chaos left by the swollen rivers and streams was unbelievable. At least twenty area bridges had been demolished. Houses had floated away while others had been flooded to their rooftops. Rutland workplaces were at a standstill because of the lack of power to run the machines or because the buildings were flooded. Roads were virtual gullies running in every direction with trees and massive stones strewn over them.

Vermont had never experienced such a catastrophe and Rutland was not alone in the devastation as the floods spread their destruction through the state. Vermont remained strong and, with the help of neighboring states and local citizens helping one another, they restored their active and thriving communities.

The devastation in the New Orleans area prompted me to make readers aware of the 1927 flood in Vermont which only a few of the elderly population would remember. The 1927 flood did more damage to this area than the local 1947 flood which was presented in a previous article.

The letter in *The Vermonter* is written by an eye witness and is much more detailed in the description of the devastation. Anyone interested in reading the letter may do so by visiting the Rutland Historical Society on Monday evenings from 6-9 or Saturday afternoons from 1-4.

Tidbits from Then and Now

I have often written about the information people can obtain at the Rutland Historical Society. I felt that I needed to pass on to readers an unusual circumstance that occurred this week at the Society.

Jim Davidson was on the second floor of the building going through a box of unidentified photos donated to the Society. Turning over the picture of a young man, probably about 18 years of age, he found the name Otis W. Barrett. When he was finished looking through the box, he went to the first floor of the Society where Larry Kelley was researching family members through old newspapers. Larry indicated that he was presently looking for Otis W. Barrett. Jim mistakenly thought the picture he had found was Otis P. Barrett. He checked and found that it certainly was Otis W. Barrett in the picture. Larry went to the basement where the old newspapers are stored and found Otis' obituary. He had died October 6, 1950 at his brother Percy's home in Clarendon. The picture of Otis W. Barrett was by no means just a nice graduation picture of a local young man. It was a picture of a future internationally known agriculturist, entomologist and botanist, as you will see from the following;

Rutland Herald, October 10, 1950

O. Barrett Well-Known

Man Who Died in Clarendon Was Agriculturist, Entomologist and Botanist

Otis Warren Barrett, 78 who was buried here yesterday, was an internationally known agriculturist, entomologist and botanist.

Born in Clarendon in 1872, a son of James and Alice W. (Kelley) Barrett, he was graduated from the University of Vermont in 1896 and was employed by the West India Improvement Company and was traveling agent for the Mexican exhibit of the Paris exposition in 1900.

He was honorary curator, entomologist of the Museo de la Commission Geografico-Exploradora at Tacubaya, Federal district, Mexico, entomologist and botanist to the Puerto Rico Agricultural Experiment Station; Plant introducer, Office Seed and Plant introduction and distribution, US Department of Agriculture; was commissioned by the Agricultural Society of Trinidad and Tobago to report upon cacao diseases in Trinidad; director of agriculture for Mozambique, Portuguese East Africa; horticulturist of the Canal Zone; manager of coconut plantations in Nicaragua with US Department of Agriculture; US War department agricultural adviser to Liberia, horticulturist at University of Hawaii and a member of the Botany Society of Washington.

Mr. Barrett died October 6 in Clarendon at the home of his brother, Percy.

How many times have I written about what fun can be had at the Rutland Historical Society.

Imagine how amazed Larry Kelley was when he found such a relative that he had never even met or known about. The amazing coincidence of Jim finding the picture upstairs as Larry was looking in the newspaper from some mention of an Otis W. Barrett for his family research.

Looking for ancestors? Wanting to make a video of picture collections? Want to join in accessioning materials donated to the Society? Stop in on Monday evenings 6-9pm or Saturdays 1-4 pm. Don't miss out on actually having "fun" at the Rutland Historical Society.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, December 17, 1915

ROLLER SKATING RINK

Will Be Opened Tomorrow in Shrine Building by J. H. Lincoln

Rutland has no intention of falling behind the times, even in the select circles and the Marble City is following closely on the heels of New York City where skating has become the craze within the last few months. In the bigger city the skating is mostly on artificial ice, which grows naturally in this country, but tomorrow afternoon the Shrine theater basement will be turned into a roller skating rink which will be continued during the winter season[The Shrine Theater (pictured) was on Wales Street where the present Co-op food store is located].

The amusement place will be known as the Marble City Skating Rink and will be under the management of J. H. Lincoln of South Main Street. Mr. Lincoln has had some experience in this line of public entertainment, having conducted a skating rink in Fair Haven, where he built a block, including a theater.

The rink will be opened officially tomorrow afternoon and it will be open week days from 2 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon and from 7 to 10 o'clock each evening. Arrangements may be made for private lessons in the morning and competent instructors will be at the rink day and night.

An admission fee will be charged and a price will be set for the use of skates.

Does anyone remember this roller-skating rink and how long it was there?

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald, October 26, 1875

The Latest Fashions

Brocades have at last fought their way into favor, and are the choicest fabrics of the season. The woolen goods most bought by people of fashion are brocaded cashmere--a pure cashmere surface as heavy as *drap d'ete* [light summer material], wrought all over with raised silk figures, done by the loom, yet scarcely to be distinguished from hand embroidery. These are single width and cost \$4 a yard. They come in all the dark invisible [?] shades, and are used for sleeveless overdresses, with sleeves and skirt of velvet or silk. The most elegant combination suits of the season are made of these choice woolen goods over velvet.

Soft, loosely woven silks with damask figures woven in them, are chosen in dark colors as parts of street costumes, and in white, pink, blue, or cream color, as overdresses for evening toilettes. There are white damask silks for wedding and bridesmaids' dresses, showing stripes, diamonds, arabesques or other figures on a basket woven surface, and these are \$6 a yard or perhaps as low as \$5. An elegant novelty for a bridal dress is a white faille [light material] overskirt with the tablier [apron shaped] wrought all over with sea-pearls; there are also pearl embroideries for the corsage, the glove wrists, and the white satin slippers. Tulle [fine netting] flounces and tabliers that are embroidered with pearls are also shown for trousseau dresses.

Polonaises [dresses with divided skirts pulled to the back to expose elaborate skirts] with all new features are again seen on the street. Black velvet lower skirts are coming to be almost as generally worn as those of black silk have been of late. Those who cannot afford the entire skirt of velvet, have a single deep flounce of velvet, or else two narrower ones. This necessitates a long overskirt, as the effect is bad if the silk skirt to which the flounces are attached is visible.

Blonde lace with silver threads woven in it is one of the new trimmings for white Chambray gauze overdresses. It is very effective by gaslight and does not tarnish.

There are also very rich silver brocades for full dress toilettes. These have grounds of pale color, Servos [combined with] blue, pearl, salmon or rose, with the brocaded figures of silver almost covering the ground, and rendering the fabric heavy and stately looking.

Linen lawn fichus [three cornered shawl], wrought with color, are among the prettiest additions to morning dresses. They are merely squares of the sheer snowy lawn, folded three-cornered, and scalloped with navy blue, Turkey red or black. They are worn high over the shoulders, held in place in plaits by a brooch or bow behind the neck, and the front ends are lapped on the bosom. These are variously called the Martha Washington and the Centennial fichus. New white neckties are of linen lawn, exquisitely embroidered on each end and hemstitched all around. Touffes [Tufts] of flowers, especially crushed roses, are again worn at the throat or on the black lace scarf.

Wow! Thank goodness a great deal of progress has been made in the style of women's clothing. Then again, some of the fabrics sound really nice. The price for the fabrics seemed rather high for that period of time, but again, it was probably only the elite that could afford that type of material. The "non-elite" were probably busy in the factories making the material!

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, August 16, 1906

Amos C. Bates of No. 75 Grove Street died Saturday evening, aged 76. He was born in Richmond, but moved to New Haven when a young man. He came to Rutland from New Haven in 1862. He bought property on Grove Street where he lived until the day of his death.

About 1862, Mr. Bates and Clark L. Long bought a piece of property on Center and Wales Streets, Mr. Long ran his blacksmith shop on Wales Street. Mr. Bates later bought out the interest of Mr. Long in the Center Street property and relocated his hardware store on Center Street. Mr. Long remained in business on Wales Street.

Mr. Bates was one of the village trustees and Superintendent of Streets in 1866. He was also treasurer of the old Washington Steamer Company in 1865. Mr. Bates purchased the property on the corner of Merchants Row and Center Street which was covered with small wooden buildings and he added a flatiron shaped building to those already standing. He started his first hardware store on that corner. The business was conducted under the name of the A.C. Bates & Son Co., at 43 Center Street.

In 1868 the buildings on the corner were burned and Mr. Bates built a large hotel known as the Bates House. Daniel Kellogg was the first landlord of the hotel, but after six months under his management, Mr. Bates took it and ran it for a number of years. It was then leased to Michael Quinn, later to Page & Tolhurst, and then to Page & Marston, who ran it until it was burned down in 1876.

The hotel was immediately rebuilt and opened for business in July 1877 and run by Mr. Bates until the property was sold to J.M. Haven. The upper half of the building was later sold to Dr. John A. Mead and after the failure of Mr. Haven, Dr. Mead bought the Haven interest at auction.

Around 1881 Amos Bates along with S.P. Curtis bought the old Mussey farm near the fair grounds. Mr. Bates was one of the promoters in bringing the Chase Manufacturing Company to Rutland, donating four acres of land from the Bates & Curtis property. He was one of the managers while the plant continued in business. He was organizer and first president of the Rutland Electric Company, the first electric lighting company organized in the state. The plant was located on West Street near East Creek. He was an active member of the Congregational Church and was instrumental in having the chapel of the church built as he was a large financial contributor for its erection. He was also largely instrumental in securing the scale works [Howe Scale], which were moved to Rutland from Brandon.

Mr. Bates was survived by a son and a daughter, Harry M. Bates and Carrie L. Bates, both of Rutland, two grandsons, Harry M. Bates, Jr. of Mount Pleasant, Tenn and Dr. Frank Bates Livermore of Barbetas, O. and one granddaughter, Edith V. Bates of Rutland. Mr. Bates was the last survivor of a family of eight brothers and sisters.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, December 19, 1907

An early morning fire destroyed the Vermont Marble Company's Store at Center Rutland, which contained the town hall and postoffice. The big two-story wooden schoolhouse, almost adjoining, to the east, narrowly escaped destruction.

The store building was entirely consumed and lay in a great smoldering pile of ashes, while the school building was scorched brown from the intense heat. So great was the heat that the firemen had great difficulty in getting a stream on the school building.

The fire was discovered about 2:30 A.M. by the night watchman at the marble mill, a short distance away. He saw the reflection of the flames in the rear end of the building on the first floor and hurried to the home of the proprietor, E. S. Slade, whom he awakened. The men hastened back to the store and attempted to enter, but the place was filled with suffocating smoke and they were driven back.

The flames spread rapidly, sweeping through the old structure, and it was not until shortly before 4 A.M. that the alarm was sounded. In the excitement of the moment, every person supposed that some other person had sounded the alarm. It was some time before the Fire Company No. 1 could reach the scene, owing to the delayed alarm and by the this time all efforts to save the store were seen to be hopeless. The efforts of the firemen were then contained in preventing the flames from spreading to the big schoolhouse.

The store was a two story wooden structure with a tower at the top used for storage. The original building was the old Methodist Church, which was bought by the Vermont Marble Company in 1880 and subsequently stocked with merchandise, becoming one of the three stores operated by the company. It is not probable that the company will rebuild as there has been some talk of discontinuing the store after the first of the year and turning it over to Mr. Slade.

Rutland Weekly Herald, January 11, 1908

The large four room school building at Center Rutland just outside of the city limits was totally destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon together with practically all of the contents.

Although the exact cause has not been determined it was undoubtedly due to an overheated furnace. The fire was discovered at about 2:45 P. M. and as it was the recess period all of the children except those in the room of Miss Anna Maughan were out of doors. Miss Maughan and one of the other teachers smelled smoke and called the janitor, James Hanley, and went to the basement to investigate the cause. They found a fire blazing briskly and it had worked up between the partition in the center of the building. Miss Maughan immediately hurried to her room, instructed the children to get their wraps, form in line and march out of the building. The other children were allowed to get the clothing they had left in the dressing rooms.

The Rutland fire department was summoned and among the incidents of interest in connection with the fire was the overturning of the fire truck of Company No. 1. The mishap occurred at the corner of Evelyn and West Streets. On the truck were Chief McDermott, First Assistant Barrett and Firemen Connors, Morris and Warner. The Chief and Morris were on the driver's seat and just as the team raced into Evelyn Street from Merchants Row, Chief McDermott took the reins from Morris so that he could put on his coat. The turn into West Street from Evelyn is a sharp one and the team was on the run. As the heavy truck swung around the curve, it skidded over the icy road and the wheels struck the car track with so much force as to throw the wagon over onto its side, throwing out all of the occupants. Chief McDermott was thrown the greatest distance and was considerably injured. He was put into a sleigh and taken to the city hospital. There were no broken bones and he had not received any serious injuries outside of a severe shaking up. Robert Warner had a shoulder dislocated and Chief Barrett lost two front teeth, besides bruising his face. The wagon was righted by the crowd and the company proceeded to the fire. Company No. 2 responded soon after.

The building could not be saved and when it was finally extinguished the structure was practically burned to the ground. The building was occupied by about 100 scholars. One of the school commissioners stated that it had not yet been decided where the school would be located. He said that a new furnace had been installed in the building about a week ago and he thought that some defect in the new apparatus was responsible for the fire.

From Rutland Town: A Collection of Stories Spanning Over 200 Years of Town History

In January 1908 the first school burned. The Town purchased a lot adjoining the old site from Vermont Marble Company for \$250.00. A store had formerly stood there. The new school was practically ready in October 1908 when a fire of suspicious origin caused severe damage to the building. Classes that had been meeting in a barn found occupancy of the new school further delayed. On January 4, 1909 the new school opened. It was the largest of all the town schools with four classrooms on one floor and the Town Hall below. [Because no measures had been taken to prevent further arson, the insurance company refused insurance after the second fire, although a Pinkerton detective from New York spent two months investigating at a cost of \$430.00 to the Town]. The building remained in use as a school until 1967 when the Rutland Town Elementary School opened.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 9, 1868

Rutland Railroad

Those who sit at their ease in a passenger car, or those who lay themselves comfortably down, at the commencement of their journey, in the sleeping palaces, which are now found upon our railroads, and are safely conducted to their journey's end, do not, as a general thing, have an idea of how much they are indebted to the skill and coolness of the engineer who has charge of the locomotive, or to the thorough inspection which the engine undergoes before the train is started.

Not one out of a thousand who live on the line of the Rutland Railroad, or that are transported over it, we confidently predict, are able to give the names of one-half the number of engines owned by the company, or have they any idea of the number owned by the company. Yesterday we spent a short time in looking up the number of engines of this company, and herewith present their names, together with the names of the engineers, and, also, whether they are used for freighting or passenger business.

Number	Engine	Engineer
1	Burlington	Moses Beach
2	Charlotte	Orlando L. Hill
3	Vergennes	Leander Morton
4	New Haven	James Hardy
5	Middlebury	Martin Ross
6	Benslide	Asa Holcomb
7	Brandon	Cornelius Moulton
8	Pittsford	Agustus Ross
9	Rutland	L. Wilson
10	Clarendon	Edward Harkness
12	Mt. Holly	G. Johnson
13	Ludlow	E. Stinson
14	Cavendish	L. T. Durkee
15	Chester	Edwin Foss
17	Bellows Falls	Moses Pratt
18	Otter Creek	Duane Ross
19	Pico	William B. Thrall
20	General Strong	E. Pratt
21	E. A. Birchard	Henry Pratt
23	Col. Merrill	T. J. Curtis
24	N. L. Davis	-----
25	Dunmore	Horace Lee
26	Ethan Allen	-----
27	Killington	-----

28	Addison	George Dennis
29	Gov. Underwood	Silas J.. Holcomb
	Gov. Page	George Griswold
	Moosalamoo	Edward Dodge

PLATTSBURGH DIVISION

Ticonderoga	A. Weeks
Saranac	_ Heading

VALLEY DIVISION

Dummerston	I. Earle
Brattleboro	L. Allen
Putney	G. Goddard
Westminster	E. Stearns

It will be noticed that the company have thirty-four locomotives, twenty-eight of which run between Burlington and Bellows Falls, two are upon the Plattsburgh Division and four on the Valley Division.

All of these engines are in constant employ, with the exception of the Middlebury, Ethan Allen and the Ticonderoga, which are in the machine shop undergoing repairs.

The N.L. Davis, Col. Merrill, Chester, and E.A. Birchard, are *new* engines manufactured in the shop of the company, under the directions of the Master Mechanic of the Road, Mr. N. L. Davis. Mr. Davis has rebuilt, (and also added a link motion--they all formerly had a drop hook), the following: Burlington, Charlotte, Vergennes, Brandon, Pittsford, Rutland, Mt. Holly, Ludlow, Cavendish, Bellows Falls, Pico, Dunmore, New Haven and Gen. Strong.

Tidbits from Then and Now

The Rutland Weekly Herald, May 14, 1868

Excerpts from "The Franklin House" by Henry Hall, Esq.

Railways are fast abolishing inns and taverns, but only to increase the necessity for hotels; hotels, which threaten to gobble up all the money the traveler has left, after paying the ever-increasing fare of railroads.

The world has recognized inns as an inevitable necessity, fraught with varied good and ill, an accommodation and a nuisance, a solace and a home to the weary traveler, a business convenience to the village, the arena for political discussion local news, stories, jokes, gossip and witticisms, the promoter of social jollity, the trysting place of boon companions, the favorite resort of idlers, the seductive tempter of restless husbands, the corrupter of ungoverned youth, the constant dread of anxious wives and parents, the fertile nursery of idleness, profanity, tippling, impurity and gaming, "where most do congregate" the profane, the scoffer, the showman, the imposter, the gambler and the courtesan.

One of the earliest preserved laws of the State (February 1779) regulates the licensing of taverns and requires certain town officials, when they "shall understand that any person in such town is a tavern haunter, or spends his time idly at any such house of entertainment," to post or advertise him by their official certificate at every tavern in town. Unreformed tavern haunters would be liable to bonds, stocks and fines.

The number of houses in Rutland that have been used as taverns is laughably large. In this village these include the Huntoon House, the Franklin House, the Reed House and the American House. At least three others have been so used, the present dwelling of Dr. Ross, the Gove house and the building on the N.W. corner of Main and West Streets [present site of the Mobil station].

Charles K. Williams who came to Rutland in 1790 as a child of eight recollected that Nathaniel Chipman then lived in the dwelling-house, which was the original Franklin House. Town records show a deed dated August 14, 1793, from Darius Chipman of Rutland to Joseph Munn of Walpole, N.H. for the Franklin House premises. Munn improved this Chipman house and converted it into a tavern. In 1796, Royal Crafts bought the place from Munn and sold it the next year to David Page, Jr., a trader of Concord, Mass. Mr. Page owned the tavern from 1797 to 1809 when he deeded it to Henry Gould of Rutland. As early as 1785, Henry Gould was living in Clarendon where he kept a tavern at the North Flats. In 1801 Nathaniel Chipman noted that the real estate of David Page, Jr. was occupied by Henry Gould. Thus Henry Gould was identified with the tavern, whose name and fame were once perhaps more identified with those of Rutland, than those of far prouder institutions.

In 1805 Henry Gould gave notice in the Herald as "gaoler" of a fugitive from jail. In 1805 he gives notice that he differs from the majority of the town in religious sentiment, this being a necessary step then to avoid compulsory legal taxation for the support of religion. In 1817 he

applied to the Legislature for temporary relief from his debts. He does not seem to have been a successful accumulator of property. His reputation was that of a cordial, obliging individual who was so sympathizing, so ready and attentive that he seemed everybody's special friend. He was the special confidant of the successful smuggler, the half-stolen goods had been perhaps securely secreted scarcely an hour, when another special confidant, the revenue officer arriving was effectually bamboozled with an appearance of zealous cooperation. Entering the room occupied by his clergymen guests he discoursed fervidly upon the state of religion while passing along to another part of the house, where money was suspiciously piled on the table, he whispered, "Quiet, boys! play low! play low! clergymen close by."

James K. Hyde and the Bardwell House might rival, but they could not excel Gould. They lacked the New England reputation for ready, agreeable attendance and merry cheer, which tradition assigns fifty and sixty years ago to the Gould tavern located midway between the Atlantic and the St. Lawrence, a focus of Northern travel. From Boston to Montreal, from New York to Montreal it had no rural peer. From Boston to Montreal was a four day trip, the lodging places being Keene, Rutland and Burlington. The direct East and West travel, through Woodstock and Whitehall halted in Rutland. The stage from Troy stopped the first night at Bennington, the second in Rutland; while another stage line passed from Middlebury through Castleton Corners to Poultney.

The Gould tavern was almost always the stage house; and that of itself determined a large amount of the local and traveling business. Isaachar Reed kept one of the best of taverns, quiet, neat, orderly, bountiful, but it never could get the stage customer but once, and then only for a few months.

Among the guests of the Gould tavern were John C. Calhoun, the original teacher of secession, then Monroe's Secretary of War, and Commodore McDonough, with his tars, en route from Boston to Lake Champlain, previous to their brilliant victory in the War of 1812.

Henry Gould was "indisposed for some time." On May 13, 1820 he walked into his garden. An hour later he was found dead. He was age 62. The Gould tavern passed through several ownerships from 1820 through 1828 when Robert Temple purchased it on August 1, 1828. He made many improvements to the building and a change of the name from the old name of "Gould's Tavern" to the "Franklin House." He sold the tavern to Joel and George Hudson Beaman in May, 1833. The Franklin House was kept by George H. Beaman from June 7, 1833, to March 2, 1842. Under Beaman's *regime* a tone of culture and social refinement pervaded the Franklin atmosphere. Since Mr. Beaman's time, much business energy, executive ability and kindly courtesy have marked the conduct of the Franklin's landlord.

Another period of several ownerships transpired from 1842 to 1868 when, while under the ownership of Gershom Cheney, the Franklin House burned on April 2, 1868. A venerable fragment of the old "Gould Tavern" is now a modern convenience on the turnpike [Woodstock Avenue] in the shape of a dwelling occupied by William Thrall, the same having been removed hither from the rear of the tavern when Temple improved the original.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Excerpt from Rutland Historical Society Newsletter

The Society issues a Quarterly magazine to its members on topics related to Rutland's historical past. There are a large number of back issues which take up much needed storage space and therefore the Society is announcing a quantity clearance sale beginning December 15, 2005. By purchasing 10 or more mixed titles or 10 or more of the same title Quarterlies in a single purchase, the price will be fifty cents (.50) each [That's a quarter of the original price!]. Starred issues are out of print but may be obtained in photocopy at one dollar (\$1.00) per issue. Shipping will be \$1.00 per order. A fine collection of good reading about Rutland's past can be assembled for holiday gifts at a huge discount.

The *History of Rutland, Vermont, 1761 - 1861*, including a map package, is available for thirty dollars (\$30), *Early Families of Rutland*, with a map package is also available for thirty dollars (\$30). If shipping is desired for these books, add three dollars (\$3.00) per book. These and other publications can be viewed by visiting the Society on Monday from 6 - 9 p.m. or Saturday 1 - 4 p.m., or online at rutlandhistory.com. The December Quarterly is a 2006 calendar of "Then and Now" featuring old buildings on one side and what's on that site presently. These calendars are priced at two dollars (\$2.00) each. For those who enjoy tidbits from Rutland's past, this is a bonanza, especially when received as a gift!

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|--|---|
| Vol I No 1 West and Main Streets | *Vol XIII No 1 Immigrants: Middle Years |
| Vol I No 2 Center Street | *Vol XIII No 2 West Rutland Town Hall |
| Vol I No 3 Rutland Railroad | Vol XIII No 3 Surrender At Yorktown |
| Vol II No 1 Howe's Candy Shop | Vol XIII No 4 Rutland Fire Clay Company |
| Vol II No 2 Museum Workshop | *Vol XIV No 1 Irish in Rutland in 1880 |
| Vol II No 3 Society Opens Museum | Vol XIV No 2 Early Militia in Rutland |
| Vol III No 1 Western Indian Crafts | Vol XIV No 3 & 4 Early Homes of Rutland |
| Vol III No 2 Maple Sugar Bush | Vol XV No 1 Sarecka Family |
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| Vol X No 2 Rutland Light Guards | Vol XXI No 4 Emelie Munson Perkins M.D. |
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Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Herald October 28, 1858

NEW BUILDING

Landon's New Hotel, on the corner of Evelyn Street and Merchants' Row is nearly finished. This is a three story frame building, 44 feet in height, and contains some 50 rooms in all. The first floor consists of the office, a dining hall and two parlors. The office is about 50 feet long and 24 feet wide; the dining hall is 47 feet long and 18 feet wide. The passage hall, in the second story, is about 80 feet in length. The public hall is 50 feet long by 30 wide and 14 feet "clear"[high]. The exterior of the building is painted a dark brown color and presents a fine appearance. It was commenced last June and will probably be ready for occupancy by the middle of November. We presume it will be named the "Rutland House," and kept by Mr. Landon.

November 25 1858

LANDON HOTEL

The new hotel just erected in this village by our enterprising fellow citizens, Messrs. J. & A. Landon, will be open and ready for the accommodation of the public, the first or second week in December. This house has been constructed in a thorough manner and its interior arrangements are such as to make it an agreeable and comfortable stopping place for guests and its location is pleasant. It contains about 50 rooms. The dining room will accommodate about 75 persons. The sleeping rooms are large and airy and well supplied with entirely new furniture. In short, the Landon House is a beautiful structure and an ornament to the place and we wish the proprietors the success they so richly deserve. We congratulate the citizens of Rutland on the fact that no town in the State is so well supplied with *first class* hotel accommodation as our own.

December 23, 1858

To the Editor the Rutland Herald:

Having spent a week at the new hotel, which has just been opened at Rutland, Vt., I feel a pleasure to state the manner in which it is kept.

It is watered by one of the purest springs from the Green Mountains and warmed by the unexcelled coal burner, "Star of the North," which keeps the whole house at a most agreeable temperature. It has the best public parlors of any house in Vt., in which is one of Horace Waters' fine pianos. The office and reading room are not excelled by any that I have ever been in. The sleeping rooms are unrivalled--all supplied with the newly constructed steel and hair mattresses, surpassing any bed that has been introduced. The beds of the Metropolitan of New York, have a world wide celebrity, but these are a decided improvement upon them. There is a good Barber's Shop, Tobacco Room and Reading Room in the basement of the building, where every facility is

afforded for tobacco to impart to the smoker the most fascinating effects. It is against the rules of the house to use it in the upper office or reading room.

The cookery and kitchen arrangements are fully up to the latest improvement. Every man or woman who enters the dining room is filled with satisfaction and delight, feeling certain that one of the best cooks presides in that kitchen below. In the dining room you are waited upon by young ladies, whose attention and experience anticipates your wants. I have traveled much in the northern, southern and middle States and Canada and visited hotels almost without number and I can confidently say the Landon Hotel, taking it all in all [with all its accommodations] is not excelled. Traveler

March 17, 1859

The Messrs. Landon having retired from business in Rutland, have leased their Hotel, heretofore known as the "Landon Hotel," to Mr. Louis D. Turrill, late of Swanton. We are pleased to learn that Mr. Turrill has sustained a high reputation as a hotel keeper in Swanton and we are quite sure that the new "Central House," under his management, will sustain the character of a first class hotel.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, January 20, 1859

Notice to Contractors

Proposals will be received until the 20th day of January next for the construction of a Church for the Congregational Society in the East Parish of Rutland, according to plans and specifications prepared by S. W. Stone, Architect of New Haven, Connecticut. These proposals will be received by the Chairman of the undersigned Building Committee, said proposals to be either for the whole building or separate for different kinds of work. The Committee reserves the right to reject or accept the proposals hereby invited, or any part thereof.

Bids will not be received in gross and no contracts will be awarded to a bidder unless details are furnished of the price of the different kinds of work and materials, which shall be subject to the revision of the committee, so they may adopt the whole or part of any bid.

Rutland, Dec. 29, 1858

JOHN B. PAGE
BENJ. R. GREENO
ROCKWOOD BARRETT
HENRY HAYWARD
JOHN H. BOWMAN
ROBT. B. BARNEY
G.C. RUGGLES

BUILDING COMMITTEE

Rutland Weekly Herald, June 16, 1859

BRICK MAKING--We were not aware until quite recently, how extensively the brick making business is being carried on close by us. We find that Messrs. A.F. & M.C. Davis have already made about 300,000 brick the present season and have contracted to furnish the brick for the new Congregational Church. The yard occupied by them is near the Car House and Repair Shop of the Western Vermont Railroad in this village, which they leased a few weeks since. They have spared no expense in fitting up this yard and have now one of the largest and best establishments of the kind in the county. They make the "water-struck brick. [Brick produced by molding relatively wet clay (20 to 30 percent moisture). When molds are wetted to prevent sticking, the product is water-struck brick.] It is of a better quality, as they claim, than ever before made in these parts. They have now about 20 men in their employ and these, we understand, are highly recommended as brick makers by such men as Mr. Thatcher, President of R. and B. Railroad, and Mr. Chapin, Superintendent of the same. Builders and others in want of a good article of brick would do well to give the Messrs. Davis a call.

Rutland Weekly Herald, June 28, 1860

RUTLAND BRICK

Happening the other day to be passing near the brick yard of Messrs. A.F. & M.C. Davis, in this village, we were led to call and take a look at the yard, its implements and its piles of brick, with a view to obtaining an "item" for publication. We fell in at once with the younger Mr. Davis, who politely "showed us around" the premises, giving us any information we desired and answering such "Yankee questions" as we saw fit, in our inquisitiveness, to propound. This yard, as is known to many of our readers, is situated near the Western Vermont R.R. Repair Shop, a short distance south of the Bardwell House [Approximately two blocks as shown in the following map.] It is probably the largest brick-yard in the State. The Messrs. Davis last year made 1,600,000 brick, which were disposed of long ago. This year they intend to make 2,000,000 having at present in their employ 27 men, or some 10 more than they employed last season. In addition to the water-struck brick, which is the only kind they made last year, they are now making the sand struck brick [Brick made from molds that are sanded to prevent sticking of clay.] and pressed brick. These are of the best quality. A brick-layer who has worked in Boston for the last fifteen years visited this year, a few days since, and on examining the pressed brick, especially pronounced them fully equal in quality to those used in Boston. The Messrs. Davis aim to make some other than the first quality of brick, which together with their fair and honorable dealings with customers, accounts for the large increase in their business since they commenced. We trust that, with their increased help and improved facilities, they will this year be able to supply all orders in their line without difficulty.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Why is there a street in Rutland called Cramton Ave.? Who was it named after?

The Answer is:

Rutland Daily Herald, October 30, 1900

John Willey Cramton was born in Tinmouth on November 10, 1826. He was brought up on a farm and attended local schools. At the age of 24 he moved to Templeton, Mass, and for three years was engaged in peddling.

In 1853 he settled in Rutland and began a course of business that eventually made him one of the wealthiest men in Vermont. He was known for his sound business judgment. He was a good reader of human nature and rarely failed in estimating the character of the men with whom he did business.

Mr. Cramton first started a tinshop in Center Rutland, but later moved the business to Evelyn Street in the building later occupied by William Metzger & Sons. Shortly after he moved to Merchants Row and became a partner with J. C. Dunn. The firm of Dunn & Cramton did business for nearly half a century.

In 1860 Mr. Cramton bought the Central House and four years later he bought the Bardwell House. He gradually became identified with many industrial enterprises and he invested largely in farming lands, until he was one of the largest owners of farms in the state. He was trustee of the Howe Scale Company in 1886 and later served as vice president. He became president of the Baxter National Bank, the True Blue Marble Company, the Steam Stone Cutter Company and the Rutland Street Railway Company. He was also a director of the Rutland Herald and Globe Association. In later years he gave much of his time to raising cattle and the development of his agricultural property. He was a breeder of blooded horses and stock. For twenty years he was a director of the State Fair Association and always took an interest in the Rutland County Agricultural Society. [I'm exhausted just reading about all the things he did].

Mr. Cramton could always be relied upon to give substantial aid to enterprises that tended to help Rutland. Many local men got their start in business from assistance by John W. Cramton and there are many families who knew the extent of his generosity. He gave the site for the Tim & Co. Shirt Factory and his services for the town were long and continuous. Within a year he gave property to the Masons for the site of a temple. He gave a building lot on East Center Street to the Young Men's Catholic Union. He was a liberal patron of the Rutland City Hospital. All of his benefactions were done in a quiet and personal manner.

John W. Cramton married Florence B. Gates in 1882 at the age of 56. He died on October 29, 1900 at the age of 73. The following excerpts are from many of his long time business associates:

Gen. W.Y.W. Ripley: "...He was a man of marked individuality, of strong character and characteristics. He was a man of rough exterior, but a warmer or more generous heart than his has never beat in a human breast."

George R. Bottum: "...He was always ready to say yes when he thought that was the proper answer to a question and he never hesitated to say no when he thought that way. He was always willing to help persons in trouble or to help establish them in a business undertaking."

H. O. Carpenter: "I have been with Mr. Cramton in connection with the Bardwell House for the past 36 years and never to my remembrance has there been any misunderstanding between us. He was broad in all his dealings and where he was a friend no one could find a better one."

Sheriff Daniel P. Peabody: "He was one of the kindest hearted men in the world and never refused to aid any good cause."

Dr. John A. Mead: "If you once gained his confidence he was forever your friend and would do almost anything for you. On the other hand if you lost his confidence it was very hard or almost impossible to regain it."

George E. Royce: "...He was a man of wonderful sagacity in business, great decision in character, sound judgment, strict integrity, every way reliable and a stayer for first to last through all emergencies. He helped many men in business and started many on their course in life."

So here is a street named for a man who, over a period of forty-seven years, was deeply involved in the shaping of Rutland.

Tidbits from Then and Now

October 17, 1861

DEDICATION OF EVERGREEN CEMETERY

The ceremonies for the occasion were highly interesting. The weather was propitious and many embraced the opportunity of visiting this charming cemetery for the first time.

The ceremony was held in a beautiful grove on the west part of the grounds where a temporary stand and seats had been erected to accommodate the people.

The exercises commenced with singing an original hymn, written for the occasion by Mrs. Julia C.R. Dorr of Center Rutland, to the tune of Old Hundred:

Ye Pines, with solemn grandeur crowned.
Put on your priestly robes today;
Henceforth ye stand on holy ground,
Where Love and Death held equal sway.

Lift up to Heaven each crested head,
And raise your giant arms on high,
And swear that o'er our slumbering dead
Ye will keep "watch and ward" for aye,

For month by month, and year by year,
While shine the stars, and rolls the sea,
Our silent ones shall gather here,
To rest beneath the greenwood tree.

Here no rude sight nor sound shall break
The calmness of their last, long sleep,
And Earth and Heaven, for Love's sweet sake,
Shall o'er them ceaseless vigils keep.

Our silent ones! Their very dust
Is precious in our longing eyes;
Oh, guard ye well the sacred trust,
Till God's own voice shall bid them rise!

An address by Rev. Mr. Seaver followed. It was historical and highly appropriate to the occasion. Rev. Dr. Magoon of Albany was next to take the stand, making some touching remarks and alluding to the fact that he had already participated in consecrating the grounds by depositing in them the day before the remains of a lovely daughter.

The title deeds were presented by S.M. Dorr, Esq., accompanied by some very interesting remarks. After this presentation, the ceremony concluded with the congregation singing another original hymn, also written by Mrs. Dorr, to the tune of Pleyel's Hymn.

God, our fathers' God, we bow,
Reverently before thee now,
And our hearts and voices raise,
To thy throne in prayer and praise.

We would pray to Him who knows
All our sorrows, all our woes;
Him whose loving heart can share
All the griefs his children bear.

Christ has lain within the tomb,
Well he knows its fearful gloom;
Knows that human hearts must shrink
From its dark and shadowy brink.

He whose tears for Lazarus fell,
Drank of suffering's deepest well;
He can pity when we lay
Our beloved ones away.

Out of sight, beneath the sod--
Then be thou our helper, God!
Let us stay our souls on thee,
For no other help have we!

We would pray--for frail and weak
Much we need the good we seek;
We would praise thee--for thy word
Tells us that our prayers are heard.

We would praise thee that at last,
Death and sin forever past,
All who love thee shall arise
To adore thee in the skies!

The benediction was pronounced by Rev. Aldace Walker and the congregation dispersed to view the grounds and mark the improvements already in progress. All were agreeably surprised at the natural beauty and adaptation of the grounds and the amount of labor already expended in laying out the beautiful grounds.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland County Herald, July 19, 1848

Rutland Forts

About the commencement of the Revolutionary War, the inhabitants of Rutland erected a fort for their mutual safety in what was called the East Rutland Village [Corner of Main & Terrill Streets]. It was made chiefly of maple--the pickets were sunk about five feet in the ground and extended about fourteen feet high, the sides of the pickets touching each other, being hewed smooth, while the inside and outside were unhewn. At each corner was a redoubt or flanker about eight feet square, so that the front of each side of the fort could be raked from one flanker. At a convenient height for shooting, were port holes radiating in and out, leaving the center only large enough to admit a musket,. These extended at a distance of six feet apart, all around the sides of the fort and flankers. On the West side a little South of the center was the only gate. Inside the fort was a small building for provisions and ammunition in time of need. This was later used as a dwelling. In the South part of the fort was a well, over which, some years after, a large flat stone was placed and this covered with earth.

As other forts were built North and West of this, it soon became of little consequence and the pickets were gradually used up for fuel. One of the inhabitants obtained the soubriquet [nickname] of "Picket John" for doing just that. No tragical incident can, by any ingenuity be connected with the fate of this fort.

Immediately upon the organization of the government of Vermont, in March, 1778, it was decided to make Rutland the headquarters of the state troops. Captain Gideon Brownson was appointed commander of the forces stationed here. Their first business was the erection of a suitable fort. This was located on the hill East of Mead's Falls [Gookin's Falls in Center Rutland]. It was made of unhewn hemlock logs or pickets, sunk in a trench five feet deep, rising fifteen feet high and sharpened at the top and inclining slightly outward. Between each of the pickets on the inside was another one, eight feet high, so as to be bullet proof with port holes like those in the other fort.

The fort was supplied with a cannon of nine pounds caliber and with this, one of the soldiers once boasted to a man, who had seen sea service, that they were prepared for a pretty severe seige, for they had *twelve cannon cartridges*. To which the sailor, (Sam McConnell) replied they often used as many cartridges in as many minutes on board ship.

This fort was called Fort Ranger, and was the Headquarters of the State troops until 1781, when the presence of a large British Army on Lake Champlain caused the removal of the headquarters to Castleton.

Though Rutland was terribly alarmed by threatened inroads of Indians, several times during the Revolutionary War and the towns immediately North of it actually invaded, Fort Ranger was never attacked by the enemy and the only danger its inmates incurred arose from the assassin

shots of Tories and Indians in the night, aiming at the heads of the men in the sentry boxes or incautious stragglers.

Copy of "Orders for Capt. Thomas Sawyer commanding at Fort Ranger, dated Arlington, May 14, 1779. The design and object of a garrison's being kept at your post is to prevent the incursion of the enemy on the Northern frontiers and to annoy them should they come within your reach; as there are two other Forts, one at Castleton and the other at Pittsford dependent on yours, you are to take care that they are properly manned and provided proportionable to your strength at Fort Ranger. You will keep out constant scouts toward the Lake, so as to get the earliest intelligence of the motion and designs of the enemy. You will keep the command of Fort Ranger and the other Forts depending until otherwise ordered by me, or until some Continental Officer shall take the command. You will post the earliest intelligence of the motion of the enemy to me and guard against surprise. Given under my hand Thos. Chittenden, Capt. Gen."

Tidbits from Then and Now

1927 Industrial Survey of the City of Rutland, under the direction of the Chamber of Commerce

As a result of a thorough survey of the City and its surroundings, we believe that Rutland offers many advantages to industry. Briefly, these are as follows: low operating and overhead costs, due to cheap power, low construction costs, freedom from labor troubles experienced in metropolitan centers, greater efficiency in labor, nearby markets, a good transportation system and ideal social and living conditions.

The growth of Rutland has been slow but steady during the entire period of its history. In 1800, Rutland, now [1927] the second largest city in the state, was fifth in the ranking of cities and towns in Vermont, with a total of 2,125 people in its confines. The increase was steady until 1880 when, with a population of 12,149, Rutland led the rest of Vermont communities. Between the years 1880 and 1900 considerable territory was cut from the limits of Rutland and several other towns were formed. The population of Rutland at the opening of 1927, seven years after the last decennial census, is 17,446.

Rutland's advantages as a convention center are being more fully recognized each year. The city's accessibility, hotel accommodations, auditorium conveniences and experience in handling crowds have brought it to the forefront. Rutland is served by two railroads, the Rutland Railroad and the Delaware & Hudson Railroad. Many of the local trains afford good connections to and from Troy, Albany, New York and Boston. There are 26 passenger trains in and out of Rutland daily.

The conveniently located hotels are: Bardwell, Berwick, Brock House, Crestwood, Elmore, Glenwood, Holland House, Lenox House and Morris Inn. There are numerous other boarding and rooming houses particularly in the summer months when private residences cater to the tourists visiting the city.

Rutland as an amusement center takes particular pains to cater to young and old. There are three playgrounds with a weekly attendance of over 2,000. In summer sport followers have a twilight baseball league, Rotary tennis courts, swimming, golf, etc. while in winter municipal ice skating rinks, ski jumps, toboggan slides, etc. afford ample amusement.

Theater-goers and lovers of motion pictures will find Rutland well equipped to cater to their individual taste. Leading road shows, vaudeville, stock companies, concerts and motion pictures are shown in the following popular priced houses; Strand, Motion Pictures and Vaudeville; Grand, Motion Pictures; Playhouse, Stock Co., Road Shows and Concerts and the Armory, Concerts.

On all sides of Rutland within a radius of 25 miles are lakes, including Lake Bomoseen; Lake St. Catherine; Lake Dunmore; Lake Hortonia and Lake Emerald.

The Building Loan Association and other banking interests are prepared to finance any constructive program for the housing of people in this City. At the present time rents vary from \$20 to \$60 per month according to location and size of house or tenement required. About 80 percent of the houses in Rutland are owned by people occupying the same, many of which are employed in local industry.

[That was Rutland almost 80 years ago (parents/grandparents time). Where has all this "progress" gone? Probably where all the children have gone.]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 3, 1903

Situation at City Hall

When the board of aldermen met Monday evening there was no money in the city treasury and no prospect of any money for the present without the use of the city's credit. The board broke away from the control of the administration and proceeded to make orders and appropriations for public works as though the city had money to burn. The \$5500 which Treasurer Davis received from the license fees had been spent. In fact, this is what the government has been run on for the past fortnight. From January 1 to June 1 there was expended on streets, sewers and sidewalks \$8352.64. During the first three of these months the work was done under the supervision of the street committee controlled by the old big six.

The debt limit has been reached, but the board proceeded Monday night to authorize temporary loan warrants to the amount of \$25,000. Of course, members of the board will be obliged to endorse this paper or see that it is endorsed by responsible parties. If the \$25,000 is secured, a part of it must be immediately paid into the state treasury and there will be left about \$14,000 to be covered into the general account of the city treasury. The temporary loan warrants outstanding will then aggregate \$84,000.

The board ordered paid last Monday bills amounting to a little over \$19,000, which the treasurer cannot do as he has no money. As though this were not awkward enough, the big six end of the board proceeded in the most cheerful manner to authorize new work done and passed orders appropriating \$4150. The City Band asked for \$400 for open-air concerts and the board in its open-hearted way took the necessary first step to make it \$500.

If this policy is continued the temporary loan account must be met by an issue of bonds and the increase of the funded debt of this city. If this is not considered practicable, the last resort will be, of course, an increase in the tax rate. In either case an extra strain will have been put upon the city's credit.

Not content with a policy of unwarranted expenditure in view of our financial condition, the board took action which may make it difficult for the city to do public work even as economically as at present. Among the matters that came up for action Monday was this resolution passed on May 26 by the Federal Labor Union of this city composed of unskilled workmen:--

Resolved, That it is the sense of Federal Labor Union, No. 9636 of this city of Rutland, that all laborers employed on the public works in said city of Rutland should be union labor men and that the minimum wages paid the same should be \$1.50 per day, and that nine hours constitute a full day's work on said public works. Be it furthermore resolved, that a copy of said resolution and action of Federal Labor union, No. 9636, be passed to the board of aldermen of the city of Rutland at their next regular meeting, for their ratification and adoption.

Last summer the membership of this union reached the 600 mark, we believe; it is now about 300. The first effect of the adoption of this rule would be an increase of the membership of the union. Those now employed on the public works and wishing to retain their positions would be required to join the union. Does the board propose to become advance agents and organizers for a private association? And isn't this establishing a precedent which is bound to react upon the city? Suppose the Vermont Employers' Association, whose headquarters are in this city, were to petition the board for the passage of a resolution providing that all persons under contract to furnish supplies to the city shall be members of the Vermont Employers' Association, would the board grant this petition as cheerfully as it did the union petition? There would be no escape from it and there are as good reason for it as there are for the union labor resolution passed Monday night.

We have heard it suggested that the big six had no notion that their appropriations and their union labor resolution would succeed; they simply were bent upon putting Mayor Temple "in a hole" politically by challenging him to veto the union labor resolution and thus alienate the support of all the labor unions of the city. This is putting a mighty low estimate upon the common sense of the unions as well as the quality of Mayor Temple's backbone. Our political sagacity may be a bit dull; but we are certain that the members of the board who planned that ambush will be the most surprised set of schemers that ever landed in a political rubbish heap. But whether the board's trap is sprung successfully or not, we see but one course for the mayor, and that is to rescue the city from financial disaster by vetoes as fast as he can write them. We do not think Mr. Temple stands in any need of this advice. He has met a big six before and knows their ways.

The best politics we know of on the part of an executive officer is an economical administration of public affairs without fear or favor. When Percival W. Clement was first nominated for mayor of Rutland, he was waited on by a delegation of men acting for labor. He was offered certain political support if he would promise to favor \$1.50 a day for those employed upon public works. He replied no, a thousand times no--He would go into the open market and hire labor for the city as he would for a private corporation under his management. His position was strengthened by the fact that he was elected and reelected mayor by overwhelming majorities. If he had been defeated, he would have been wrong, and that is the top notch for any man dealing with the business of the public.

[All these budget woes took place over one hundred years ago. Could it be said that history has a way of repeating itself?]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 18, 1927

Mother! Now You Know How To Help Your Puny, Weak Child.

It's your duty to aid him to grow strong, active and sound in body and mind. That little boy or girl of yours--that doesn't weigh enough--that isn't strong--has no appetite--lacks vigor and is perhaps backward, listless and timid.

What are you going to do with them? Have you ever heard of McCoy's Cod Liver Oil Compound Tablets, sugar coated and as easy for ailing children to take as candy?

Every druggist in America sells them -- 60 tablets, 60 cents--and the supremely good combination of up-building agents surely does help the sickly, run down, puny, frail little ones.

No need to give them any more nasty Cod Liver Oil--McCoy's tablets rich in vitamins, are made to take the place of that good but evil smelling, stomach upsetting medicine and they surely do.

Try them as directed for 30 days, mother, and if at the end of that time you are not delighted with the improvement in your dear little one, get your money back.

You can get them at Abraham's Cut Rate Drug Store or any druggist and remember, too, they are fine for the rundown, underweight men and women who need more flesh, strength, vigor and vitality. Demand McCoy's--the original and genuine.

Where were these pills hiding when we had to take a spoonful of Cod Liver Oil- ("for our own good"!)

Maybe a mother's love said it all in this Valentine verse:

*I knows I surely lufs you some,
Dat's vhy dere is dis yum-yum-yum.
I vant you always to be mine.
Mine only shveet und luffly
Valentine.*

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 3, 1927

Howe Scale Removal Still is Undecided

Riehl Says Proposal Came Unsought From St. Louis Commerce Board

Frank G. Riehl, president of the Howe Scale Company, on returning yesterday noon from St. Louis, said that no definite decision had been made as to whether the scale plant would remain here or be moved to the Missouri city. He stated, however, that investigation engineer Cady of the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce will come to Rutland either this week or next to make a survey of the Howe properties here for his organization.

While Mr. Riehl was in St. Louis a special dispatch was sent from that city to the Herald stating that Mr. Riehl had been conferring with officials of the commerce board there relative to the possible removal of the scale works to St. Louis.

While there he consummated a deal transferring the Weightograph Company to the Howe properties. He was quoted as saying that while the Howe Scale Company was now doing a \$5,000,000 business out of Rutland, it was planning expansion and the acquisition of the St. Louis concern was the first step in that direction.

Mr. Riehl explained yesterday that the proposal to move the scale works to St. Louis had come to him unsolicited from the Chamber of Commerce when he was there closing the deal for the transfer of the Weightograph Company.

Although it has not been definitely decided whether the Howe Scale works is to be moved to St. Louis or remain in Rutland, in any event the Weightograph Company plant will probably be transferred to this city.

If the scale works remain here the new property will be a permanent adjunct to the present factory. If the present plant is moved to St. Louis, the Weightograph concern will probably be transferred to Rutland temporarily so that the entire works may be taken to St. Louis as a unit.

[Did anyone ever know that we almost lost the Howe Scale Company? This, at a time when business was "booming" for all the industries in Rutland!]

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Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 11, 1927

Skating Fete Draws 700 to Rotary Rink

Carnival Ushered in By Pyrotechnic Display, Proves Big Success.

The crowd of over 700 skaters and sightseers packed the rink and jammed the clubhouse at the Rotary Ice Carnival at Rotary Field last night demonstrating the interest that skating has aroused in Rutland.

Starting at 8 o'clock with a display of fireworks that rivaled those at the Rutland Fair, the events lasted for three hours, the rink closing for the night at 11 o'clock.

The fancy skating contest, first on the program, was won by John Hurley, who took the men's first prize and by Frances Parker and Mary Gilrain, who won the women's prize skating as a team.

The two-lap, 300 yard race for senior boys was the closest event of the carnival. W. J. Chapleau won by a split second from D.J. Corcoran. D. McLeod was third. First prize in this event was a silver cup. Eileen Mangan won the cup for first place in the girls two-lap race, Louise Laventure taking second place and Kathleen Fewkes third.

In the doubles race, Louise Laventure and Frank O'Brien took first place, Miss Laventure winning a jewelry prize and her partner a silver cigarette case. Katherine Fewkes and Donald Harrington were second and Frances Smith and Charles Corcoran third.

James Reynolds came in first in the junior boys' 300 yard race, winning the silver cup. William Daley was second place and Max Fineburg third. A race for boys under 14 years old substituted for the junior boys' relay race, was won by Max Fineburg with Robert Eddy placing second.

Donald Harrington won the mile race, winning over Clarence LaFrance of West Rutland, who placed second. Albert Bassett of Rutland was runoff. The Rutland Team composed of James Reedy, W.J. Chapleau, D. McLeod and Albert Bassett won. A West Rutland team composed of H. LaFrance came in second. The teams raced for eight laps, each man going two and passing the stick to his teammate.

Francis Frapier, in blackface, with a goat dressed in gay colors and riding on Francis' sled, won first prize for the most grotesque costume.

The officials were; Starter, Robert C. Boynton; Judges at the finish, W. F. Burbank and Jay W. Smith; Clerk of the course, Geno Franzoni and Robert D. Smith; Assistant Judges, Asa S. Bloomer and James Quinn.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, March 28, 1901

Sunday Night's Fire May Lead to the Building of a New Opera House

A new plan for remodeling the city hall was discussed about town yesterday and had many advocates among business men. It is proposed by the promoters of the new idea to use the City Hall for city offices and fire department quarters only and to do away altogether with the audience room. The hall could be remodeled in this way for \$15,000, the amount which the city will probably receive from the fire insurance companies. All the city offices could then be brought under one roof and the city would save the \$900 which it now pays out every year for rent. One of our most substantial and conservative business men said last night that if this plan were adopted he would be one of 10 men to build a first-class opera house.

The debris on the second floor of the hall is now nearly all cleared away and work will begin today on the temporary roof which is to be built to protect the offices and the fire station on the lower floor. The roof will be 12 feet above the upper floor and will extend the whole length of the building. It will be a low gable affair with eavetroughs to turn the water out of the windows.

Alderman Creed thinks he has found the place where the fire in the City Hall started. When the charred boards of the floor underneath the stage were removed, several incandescent light wires were exposed which had their insulation entirely burned off. The fire had not burned down through the floor at this point, but had apparently started there, crept along to the rear wall a few feet away and then shot upward.

The fire alarm system was put in order yesterday and was working all right last night. The firemen of station 1 were busy all day cleaning out their quarters. Their horses and cart have been moved from C.E. Barker's stable to the Bardwell house stable.

City Clerk Whittier and City Treasurer Davis are established in their new quarters in the old Felton Market in the Bardwell House building. Mr. Whittier occupies what was the chicken department and Mr. Davis has the beef and pork department. You can find either of them by the odor with your eyes shut.

People passing along Merchants Row yesterday afternoon noticed clouds of smoke in the new quarters of the city clerk, treasurer, engineer and assessors. Several excited citizens rushed in to inquire if there was another fire, but were told that a handful of coffee was being burned to deaden the odor of the dead past.

Rutland Daily Herald, March 30, 1901

The Rutland Merchants' Association held a meeting in Odd Fellows' Hall last evening for the purpose of getting expression of opinion from its members and invited guests on the new City

Hall question. There was a general discussion of the subject from all points of view and many conflicting views were advanced. Almost everybody wanted a better hall than the old one, but opinions were divided as to whether the city should remodel the old building or put up a new hall on a different site.

Rev. George Eliot Cooley was strongly in favor of a new public hall on a new site; E. P. Gilson and H. O. Carpenter favored the remodeling of the present structure for city offices; Edgar B. Moore was for a brand new hall; Egbert C. Tuttle agreed with Mr. Gilson in doubting the wisdom of the city building an opera house, but he thought a suitable convention hall was needed in Rutland; Robert A. Lawrence favored a special tax for the new hall, if one were built rather than an issue of bonds; Thomas H. Browne said an expression of approval or disapproval by the citizens assembled in public had great weight with the board of alderman; D. L. Morgan believed in remodeling the ruins of the old hall; E. N. Merriam favored a new hall. He thought the old hall was entirely too near the whistles; Richard Ryan was in for a good convention hall. He told how Rutland had lost many big conventions on account of having no suitable hall; Rev. George Eliot Cooley spoke in favor of submitting the question to the people; W. C. Smith knew something about what weight the voice of the people carried. He was on the committee which waited on the board of aldermen soon after the citizens voted to remodel the hall, and he described in graphic language the way he and his associates were "turned down cold."; George E. Chalmers thought the present location of the city hall could be utilized in the line of economy; Alderman C. B. Hinsman said there was no question that the city needed a new convention hall, but he was not certain about the best means for securing it.

President Gary went over the whole subject in detail. He thought the question could be settled only by giving it to the people. He did not look favorably on the old building. It was built wrong, he said, from the start. It was set in the mud with no cellar except two small excavations for heating apparatus. The offices were so damp as to be hardly inhabitable. The city engineer had no vault and this caused him to lose \$2,000 worth of books and papers in the late fire. In his opinion the fire department should be quartered in a separate building where there would be sufficient room for the fire apparatus and where the noise of dances and entertainments would not keep the firemen awake nights.

April 6, 1901

The City Hall was insured at a reduced rate on an 80 per cent basis. Eighty per cent of its value would have been \$24,000, but it was insured for less than \$20,000. The city thus comes in for a dead loss of \$2,521. The aldermen were often urged to put more insurance on the building, but they did not heed this advice. Another peculiar fact about the city hall insurance is that the contents were mentioned in only two of the six policies on the building. The contents clause was stricken out of four policies a few years ago by order of the board of aldermen. By not having the furniture in the building properly insured, the city lost \$884.

On April 27, 1901 it was reported that the city offices were moved from the Bardwell House building back to their old quarters. Several sets of plans for the remodeling of the building for offices and fire department quarters were being prepared by local and out of town architects.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 17, 1901

John A. Sheldon, Charles P. Harris and A.G. Coolidge spoke in favor of a curfew law in Rutland. Mr. Coolidge read several letters telling of the success which had attended the enforcement of a curfew law in Massachusetts cities. On motion of Alderman Creed the ordinance was accepted unanimously and turned over to the committee drafting new city ordinances.

AN ORDINANCE CONCERNING CHILDREN UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE.

Be it ordained by the City Council of the City of Rutland, as follows:

Section I. No child under 16 years of age shall be, in or upon, any of the streets, ways, sidewalks, alleys, public squares or parks in this city in the night time after the hour of 9 o'clock, unless such child is accompanied by a parent, guardian or other person having the care or control of such child, or is in the performance of some errand or duty directed by such parent, guardian or other such person in writing, or unless such child is there necessarily by reason of its employment; and no such child while in such employment or performance of such duty shall loiter upon any such street, way, sidewalk, alley, public square or park or other public way or place.

Section II. The chief of police shall keep a record of all violations of Section I of this ordinance and shall cause to be notified thereof one of the parents, the guardian or any other person having the care or control of such child. He may also make complaint of all cases of children under 16 years of age who by reason of orphanage or neglect, crime, drunkenness or other vice of parents are suffered to grow up without salutary parental control or education, or in circumstances exposing them to lead idle and dissolute lives.

Sec. III. The chief engineer of the fire department shall cause three blows to be sounded on the fire alarm signals at 10 minutes to 9 o'clock each evening.

Sec. IV. Any person violating any of the provisions of Section I of this ordinance shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$5 for each such violation.

November 7, 1901

The curfew ordinance which was adopted by the board of aldermen at the meeting Monday night was enforced for the first time last evening. The ordinance was approved by Mayor Hollister Tuesday, and the curfew, three blows of the fire alarm whistle, was sounded at 8:50 o'clock last evening.

The children under 16 years of age were evidently posted in regard to the new ordinance and the penalties for its violation and as soon as the whistle sounded they started for home, some of them

on the run. There was a notable absence of small boys about the business streets last night and the new ordinance will undoubtedly accomplish much good in this direction.

November 12, 1901

The curfew ordinance, which has been in effect a week, is proving a very satisfactory measure and its enforcement has presented as yet none of the many complications which were predicted for it. The streets of the city are noticeably free from children in the evening, and those who happen to be on the street when the curfew sounds immediately get under cover.

Chief of Police Blanchard in speaking of the ordinance last evening said: "I believe it has a tendency to keep the children off the street and at home the entire evening. There has been no trouble experienced by the officers in the enforcement of the law, as the children start for home as soon as the whistle sounds. I believe it is a mighty good thing for all concerned. It certainly saves the police a lot of work and will mean a saving in the years to come."

[The whistle still blows, but do any of the children under 16 years of age know why? Wouldn't it be interesting to ask the school children if they know why that whistle blows---particularly the teenagers! Another question--Is this ordinance still on the books or is the whistle just for "old time's sake"?]

Tidbits from Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 16, 1904

The Kellogg house at No. 12 East Washington Street has been leased for five years by the sub-committee of the school board consisting of Commissioners Gale, Winslow and Johnson. It will be used when the school year commences this fall as a school building for the district in which the building stands. The building will be thoroughly renovated and put in shape for this use. Few alterations are necessary owing to the construction of the house which makes it admirable for school purposes. A school building has been badly needed in this district for a long time and its use will greatly relieve the congested conditions in several other school buildings.

May 19, 1904

The residents in the vicinity of the proposed school, which is to be established in the Kellogg house at No. 12 East Washington Street, are indignant at the action of the commissioners. A petition requesting the board to rescind its action and give up the plan for making a school out of the Kellogg house has been circulated and signed so far by some 30 of the residents and property owners. It is the claim of the residents, but principally the property owners, that if such a school is established at this place, it will materially decrease the value of property and will add a disagreeable feature to the neighborhood. The street is narrow and the house which is to be devoted to school purposes sits close to the street and within almost touching distance of the Otis place.

It is further claimed that the school commissioners possess or can get possession of land in the vicinity that will answer the purpose just as well and not interfere with the rights and privileges of property owners. The signers of the petition believe that the school board does not fully understand the situation and hope the petition of the signers will be listened to and the objectionable proposition given up entirely. While many of the property owners and residents have children of their own they insist that a school house in the heart of a densely populated residential section of the city would be objectionable.

May 20, 1904

It is understood that the school commissioners are planning to transfer the commercial department of the high school to the rooms now used by the two 9th grades as soon as the old Kellogg house on East Washington Street is put in shape for school purposes. These two grades will then be transferred to the Kellogg house and the other rooms there will be used to accommodate the pupils from that vicinity and relieve the congestion existing in other buildings.

One board member stated that a modern and well-regulated school house could not possibly have a detrimental effect on the value of property in the neighborhood. There had been no intention to damage anyone. The location was the only one obtainable and the pressing needs of a school in the vicinity made it mandatory upon the board to act as it had. The matter was not rushed nor was

there any attempt to deceive anyone. He said that the board feels that a protest at this date was somewhat unreasonable. When the public meeting of voters was held in the spring to discuss the question of building a new high school, representatives from wards 1 and 2 spoke against a new high school being built until those two wards had been given a school house to take care of the scholars in the district included in the two wards. "Now," he said, "when that want is being fulfilled there comes a protest."

It was stated that the presence of schools in other thickly populated sections had not served to decrease the value of adjoining property and the Madison Street School was cited as a particular example. Several fine residences were built in that vicinity long after the school was built. The property was considered by the owners to be just as valuable as before the school was built.

The present quarters of the commercial department are in two stores on Center Street formerly occupied by Marvin A. McClure's music rooms. The rent there has been advanced constantly and a future increase in sight for next year's rental would amount to \$600. The Kellogg house, altered and put in shape by the owner for school house purposes without cost to the city, could be had for practically the same money as the rent of the present quarters. This does not count the advance for the next year and it will give twice the room.

The commissioner also stated that if an attempt was made to erect a new building the act would be in violation of the charter, which does not allow an expenditure of over 50 cents on the dollar.

[Could this have been another one of those "NOT IN MY BACKYARD" petitions?]

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Tidbits from Then and Now

A Short History of Rutland's Water Supply

The first supply of water to the Village was provided by Gershom Cheney, proprietor of the Franklin House [located near the Courthouse on Main Street]. Wooden pipes were laid from a large spring, at the edge of the town of Mendon, to the Village. Posts connected to the water line were set up at the houses of residents who paid a particular tax for the water supply. A spigot in the post allowed the resident to draw water from the system. This arrangement continued for several years after the Village was incorporated. The system was owned and controlled by The Aqueduct Company. Village authorities later extended the old pipes to new areas of the Village for fire fighting purposes. In 1857, a reservoir was constructed on Woodstock Avenue on Dr. Porter's lot [present site of the Godnick Center]. Water was piped to the northeast corner of Woodstock Avenue and North Main Street through six inch pipes. Five inch pipes were laid to Washington Street and two inch pipes to other parts of the Village.

Bonds were issued to pay for the works and the system became the property of the Village Corporation. Rates were assessed at \$5.00 a year for a family home of 5 persons, the Franklin House \$45.00 and individual stores at \$5.00.

Locations of water posts along Main and West Streets in 1800

By 1868 the water supply was increased and by 1878 a more extensive distribution system was needed. East Creek was adopted as a source of water and a twelve inch aqueduct was laid from the creek about three miles from the reservoir. Pipes and hydrants were extended throughout the Village.

From the City Reports of 1879 & 1880

[1879]: The committee appointed to carry out the plan for supplying the village with water from East Creek has completed the work at an expense very much less than the lowest of the original estimates. Credit is due to Mr. L. E. Roys for his location of the excellent line which was adopted. There is now an abundant supply of very pure water.

[1880]: The work of laying the distribution pipes from the reservoir thorough the village was completed according to the plans proposed and at an expense within the original estimates. The completion of this work with that of the previous year, will furnish the village for many years to come with an abundant supply of pure water.

The work is now in fine condition, both for the daily use of the inhabitants and also furnishing abundant facilities for the extinguishing of fires, for which purpose thirty-one double hydrants have been conveniently located, giving great force and volume of water far exceeding the efficiency of the best fire engines.

A sample of a wooden pipe, dug from the original system, is on display at the Rutland Historical Society.

Tidbits from Then and Now

The following article tells how Vermont teens helped on the homefront during World War II

Rutland Herald, March 30, 1944

More Vermont Boys, Girls Urged to Sign for Farm Employment

Vermont high school boys and girls are not responding as well as was expected to the call for youths to assist farmers and their wives during the summer, Mrs. Martha P. Buttrick, assistant farm labor supervisor with the UVM Agricultural Extension Service said yesterday.

County farm labor assistants who are recruiting young farm hands and household aides report that only a few boys and girls have as yet signed up as Victory Farm Volunteers, she said.

To inform both the young people and their parents about the program, talks are being given in high school assemblies, PTA groups, Mothers' Clubs and other adult organizations. With youth and women practically the only helpers available, about 1000 boys and girls are going to be needed on Vermont farms this summer in order to meet food production goals for wartime needs.

"Since jobs are easy to find in cities and villages, boys and girls are failing to give serious consideration to farm work", Mrs. Buttrick said.

"The patriotic young American who wants to serve his country and is willing to work hard will find being a Victory Farm Volunteer a satisfying job,"

A special effort is being made to recruit in-state youth since farmers generally consider them better qualified than those from big cities.

Placements are made by the farm labor workers only on farms measuring up to certain standards. A youth supervisor in each county keeps in touch with the workers and their employers after placement.

Boys joining the Victory Farm Volunteer program must be 15 years of age or older and weigh at least 125 pounds. They must agree to stay on the job at least two months and be prepared to do whatever work is assigned. The minimum pay for inexperienced help is \$30 a month, plus board, room and laundry.

Accident insurance coverage is provided by the farmer. Boys will work on the average about ten hours a day and usually live at the farm and share in the family life.

High school girls at least 16 years of age are being recruited as aides of farmers' wives so that the women can be released from routine household duties to help their husbands in farm production. The girls must be prepared to work eight hours a day at whatever light tasks are most pressing, either in the house or outdoors.

Last year, after learning to handle the housework efficiently and quickly, many girls spent a good share of the day working outside in field and garden. They will receive \$25 a month and room, board and laundry. The girls will be covered by accident insurance and must agree to stay on the job two months. Parents' consent and a doctor's health certificate will be required of all volunteers.

Boys and girls interested in becoming Vermont Farm volunteers can obtain more information at their county Farm Bureau office or by writing to Vermont Farm Volunteers, 43 South Prospect Street, Burlington, VT.

Tidbits from Then and Now

Found...another school in Rutland!

Rutland Daily Herald, October 5, 1904

School will not be opened in the new school house on Gilrain Avenue until next Monday. The hot-air furnace is installed and ready for use and the seats have also been put in, but the blackboards are not yet installed. The room has a seating capacity of 49. Miss Agnes Crowley will be the teacher in charge. Owing to the distance this building is from the street car line and the length of time it will take the special teachers [Art, Music, etc.] to go to and from it on their regular rounds, the question was brought up at the last monthly meeting of the school commissioners as to how many visits these teachers would be required to make to the new school, but nothing definite was decided upon. Superintendent W. A. Frasier reported the total enrollment of pupils in the city to be 1904. This will be increased when the new school is opened.

October 10, 1904

School opened this morning in the new school building on Gilrain Avenue. The canvass made previous to the erection of the building showed that there were about 53 pupils who would attend this school. The room will accommodate 48 pupils. [The school registered 34 pupils on opening day and several more pupils will register within a few days. Pupils will attend grades 1-6 and be prepared to go into 7th grade.]

According to the class register for the 1904-05 school year 38 students were enrolled and Miss Agnes Crowley was the only teacher there. Mr. Joseph Begor who lived on Stratton Road was the janitor until 1917 when Mrs. Henry Elkey, who also lived on Stratton Road, took over that job.

Rutland City Report of 1905

Gilrain Avenue School: This is a single room building, fitted with three rows of eight double seats in a room 19 1/2 feet by 31 1/2 feet long by nine feet high--lighted by five small windows, two on either side and one in the rear; heated by a furnace, with no ventilation. This building has one advantage over that of the Washington Street building in that the children do not face the light. The room might have been easily made as healthful as any in the city without additional expense. The room is kept scrupulously clean, but even one hour after dismissal the air is fetid and unwholesome. A small expense would improve this room materially, though there are too many pupils for any one teacher.

According to school reports, the school did continue with only a single teacher until 1918, but, it was not always the same teacher:

1904-1905: Miss Agnes Crowley, 37 students

1906 and 1907: E. Agnes Reynolds, 37 students
1908-1909: Mary C. Cline, 25 students each
1910: Ellen Dunn, 29 students and 1911 with 27 students
1912: Mary G. Long, 27 students
1913: Mary E. Onion, 22 students
1914: Bernice H. Stafford, 21 students and 1915, 16 students
1916: Mary E. Corcoran, 16 students
1917: Gertrude R. Cline, number of students was not listed.

1918 City Report

The School Board, seeing no possibility of increased school receipts, decided to restrict the purchase of school supplies, to limit repairs and to close the Gilrain Avenue and School Street Schools and assign the pupils of those schools to other building. The closing of these two building might be regarded as a “war measure” [This is the time of the WWI] to reduce expenses; yet for several years past there have arisen serious doubts as to the advisability of continuing these schools. The Gilrain Avenue School is a rented one room building and the School Street building is by far the poorest school structure in the city, considerably out of repair and defective in heating and ventilation.

The decision of the Board to close these two building has aroused very little opposition. These schools are located in sections of the city which largely patronize private schools. [Gilrain Avenue section contained Holy Innocents School, now known as Christ the King School and the School Street section contained St. Peter’s School]. The buildings are not in good repair and the per capita cost of conducting up-to-date schools in either building would be high. The pupils attending those schools can be accommodated in other building with slight added expense. The wisdom of reopening either of these buildings for school purposes maybe justly questioned.

By 1922, Mr. Frank H. Duffy, who rented the Gilrain School to the city, had converted the building into a house.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Since 1850 Rutland has been a railroad city. In 1902 plans for a major renovation and addition to the old railroad station were in motion. The following is a dated chronology of these changes:

Rutland Daily Herald, June 13, 1902

There is little question that the work of preparing for the new railroad station in this city will begin in the near future. Matters are assuming definite shape and although no official statements have yet been given out, the first move, the tearing down of the present structure, will, unless there are unforeseen complications, be started in a few days.

During the last week the Rutland Railroad Company has received a number of bids from contractors for the removal of a part of the present station. The bids called for the tearing down of practically all the present structure except the waiting rooms and express office. The present waiting rooms and ticket office will constitute the temporary station and will be used while the new one is being built.

June 14, 1902: The contract for tearing down the old building has been awarded to Ward & Douglas of Montpelier. The plans for the new depot are not definitely settled except in a general way. The depot will be thoroughly up-to-date in every respect and the company is prepared to spend whatever money is requisite to secure the proper architectural effect.

June 17, 1902: The workmen will begin to tear down the station by removing the slate this morning. The contractors expect to work as many men as possible, between 40 and 50, and intend to finish the job in a couple of weeks. The work will proceed from the roof down.

June 18, 1902: Beginning this morning all trains which are made up in this city will leave from the outside of the depot, those going north and west leaving from the north end and those going south and east from the south end. Passengers for these trains will reach them through gates cut in the fence both north and south of the depot. All through trains will leave from the train shed. The workmen are notified 15 minutes before the trains are due so that the danger of passengers being struck by falling debris will be avoided. No persons will be allowed on the station platform until the trains are announced.

June 23, 1902: The work of tearing down the train shed of the old depot is progressing rapidly. The brick work at each end of the structure was torn down yesterday by means of dynamite, the south end being blown to pieces about 6:30 o'clock in the morning and the north end about 1:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon. Small blasts were placed along the wall and discharged by means of an electric battery. By using several small charges instead of a single large one the danger of scattering bricks to any distance was avoided. The blasting was entirely successful, the walls falling as intended. The debris was cleared from the track in time for the sleeper from the north.

August 26, 1902: The Rutland Railroad Company is planning to transform the two waiting rooms at the local depot into one large room for the greater convenience of people wishing to take

trains. The restaurant, which is now run under the management of A. J. Boynton of the Berwick House, will be closed up this week and the furnishings sold. There has been some talk of having a restaurant upstairs in the depot, but this idea has been abandoned and there will be no restaurant at the depot for the present.

September 26, 1902: The Rutland Railroad Company's plans and specifications for a new union depot will cost about \$100,000. It will be of light mottled brick with marble trimmings. A good deal of attention is being paid to all the details of the proposed station and in its appointments it will probably be the most perfect building of its kind in any New England provincial city. If the present plans are carried out the northern point of the proposed building will be about halfway between the express office and Keyes' store on Evelyn Street and it will extend about 300 feet to the south. The facade of the building will be pretty well up on the line of Merchants Row.

October 25, 1902: Some changes will soon be made in the train platform arrangement of the local railroad station. The umbrella shed covering the platform north of the station will be extended so as to cover the whole of the main platform and new sheds will be built between the tracks. By this arrangement practically the whole of the station platform will be under cover. A new track will be laid in the clear space just west of the present track No. 3, making four tracks that can be used for passenger trains.

November 4, 1902: Work was begun yesterday morning on the changes in the track arrangement which are to be made at the railroad station. Track No. 1 will be moved east about one foot. Track No. 2 will also be moved east as far as possible, thus leaving a wide space between tracks No. 2 and No. 3, which will be covered by an umbrella shed, as will the main platform. A new track for passenger trains is to be laid just west of track No. 3. New 80 pound steel rails are being laid for the main lines through the local yard. The heavy rails were laid throughout the rest of the system some time ago.

November 18, 1902: A large gang of men are at work in the railroad yards replacing the present 60-pound rails with the 80-pound rails on all the main tracks in the yard. New automatic split switches are being put in place of the old ones. *(continued to next week)*

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November 5, 1903: A large force of men was set to work yesterday straightening track No. 1 in the railroad yard where it approaches the station from the south. The track will be moved in some places about five feet to the east, to make one gradual curve instead of two rather sharp ones, as at present. The work will necessitate the moving of two switchmen's houses and the changing of some other tracks. The roadbed will be prepared during the week, and the tracks will probably be moved Sunday. A pipe to carry steam heat from the car-cleaning house to tracks Nos. 3 and 4 will be installed soon, so that cars standing on these tracks can be heated.

November 28, 1903: The work of laying an entirely new platform under the umbrella shed was begun today. All of the old platform will be torn up to make room for the new one. Men are also at work laying a platform under the shed between tracks Nos. 2 and 3. The brick wall at the north end of the depot will all be torn down and replaced by a fence. ~~[To be continued]~~

The original plan called for a hardwood floor and plaster walls. It is understood that the new scheme is to lay a terrazzo floor. Wainscoating of varigated marble, five feet in height will be placed around the entire room. It is estimated that the change in plans will cost about \$1500. There seems to be little doubt that the necessary sum will be raised.

November 7, 1904

The depot waiting rooms were moved yesterday from the main structure to the two north rooms in the new north wing. The two United States mail boxes for city and outgoing mails, which were formerly located in the women's waiting room, will be placed on a post on the station platform.

January 5, 1905

Plans are being executed by a New York architect for the beautifying of Depot park. One set of blue prints has been submitted to the management, but owing to the architect's lack of knowledge of local conditions and immediate surroundings of the building they did not prove satisfactory. In beautifying the grounds, trees, shrubbery and flower gardens, together with a well kept lawn will consititue the main elements to produce the desired transformation. The bandstand will be removed as it is not a thing of beauty and because of the noise of the trains it is not deemed a suitable place to enjoy a band concert. Possibly settees may be placed in the park for the use of the general public.

January 14, 1905

Two large white marble station signs have arrived at the depot from the Proctor mill of the Vermont Marble Company and one will be put on the end of each wing. The signs are about 15 feet long, 16 inches high and three inches thick. "Rutland" is carved on each in large Roman letters.

January 21, 1905

A somewhat complex situation has arisen at the new railroad station in connection with the interior work of the main waiting room which is being paid for, in part, by the contributions of local citizens. There is every indication that the foreign contractor, who is to do the interior work is being held up by the chief contractor. When the contract for the work was awarded to Charles E. Paige the terms included a hardwood floor and other work to the extent of about \$250. The citizens of Rutland, not wishing to have too inexpensive an interior contributed a sum of money sufficient to allow, as they supposed, the use of Rutland marble for a part, at least, of the decorative work. A change in Mr. Paige's contract was agreed upon, but he learned that the interior contract was awarded to an Albany contractor without consultation with him or any definite settlement as to the change in his contract.

Another phase of the local situation is the feeling of disappointment among the public spirited citizens to learn that there will be nothing after all in the interior work to show the traveler that marble is recognized as our chief industry or in fact to indicate that there is a particle of marble in

this section. The terrazzo work will include some chips of white marble from the Vermont Marble Company's plant, but the other chips will all be marble from Italy.

January 21, 1905

One of the most needed features of the new railroad station in this city will be the model, up-to-date restaurant now being installed in the north end of the south annex. The room has been leased by E.R. Stinson of the Brock House for a term of years and the restaurant will be in personal charge of the lessee.

February 14, 1905

Several officials of the Rutland Railroad were moved to their new quarters yesterday. Their first action has been taken toward improving facilities for handling freight and passenger traffic of this branch under the management of the New York Central. The matter of changing the running schedule of trains and other important business will be considered at a meeting in April.

Mrs. John Maloney has been engaged as janitress to care for the offices over the depot waiting room and also for the waiting room when it is completed. She began her duties last night. The work of cleaning the rooms will be done in the evening and early morning before the hours of business.

A bootblack's stand, which is to be entirely covered with brass and which will present a neat appearance will be placed in the waiting room and will be in charge of I. H. Smith. Hackmen and hotel porters will not be allowed to solicit trade on the train platform or in the waiting room. They may, however, accompany passengers to the trains. News boys will not be allowed on the platform or in the waiting room. The newstand will be open from 6 o'clock in the morning until 8 o'clock at night. People will not be allowed to lie down on the waiting room seats or to set grips on the seats.

July 15, 1905

The work of laying the dormant sod which arrived from Chicago will be commenced today. The sods, which are a foot square, will be soaked in water before they are laid. It is claimed that within two weeks the park will be nicely greened over.

July 17, 1905

The railroad company has gone to much expense to beautify the park and the "Keep off the grass" signs must be heeded. The employees of the company will keep close watch of the park and if any person is seen to cut across a grass plot or to swing on the chains surrounding the park he will be arrested and prosecuted.

#357
over up 4/20

Tidbits From Then and Now

The New Depot [continued]

Rutland Daily Herald, September 9, 1904

Work on the new depot, for which the citizens of Rutland have waited so long, was begun yesterday by Contractor C. E. Paige of Rutland, to whom the contract was awarded by the Rutland Railroad Company. The station, when completed, will consist of three separate buildings, the present structure and two one story buildings, one of which will be 32 feet north of the main structure and the other an equal distance south of it. All buildings will be of stained red brick.

The interior of the present structure will be entirely torn out and the plan rearranged. The first floor will be made into one large waiting room. The front entrances will have two double doors. There will also be two entrances from the track side. The ticket office will be in the front of the building between the entrances and will be made of glass partitions protected by woven wire screens. The news stand will be on the opposite side of the waiting room in front of the staircase leading to the second floor. The second floor will be divided into offices for officials and clerks. The telegraph office will also be located on the second floor.

Between the main building and the buildings on the north and south there will be two umbrella sheds under each of which will be two turnstiles and two large gates. The building on the north will contain offices and the building on the south will contain a restaurant as well as a baggage room, conductors and trainmen's rooms and a room for handling the United States mail.

The wings will cover practically all of the roadways to the north and south of the station so that it will be necessary to use a considerable portion of the grass plots for a new roadway, which will extend along the entire front of all the buildings.

September 17, 1904

The small brick building south of the main structure which has been used for the train and yardmasters' offices will be torn down today. The offices have been moved into a car where they will remain until their permanent quarters are ready.

November 3, 1904

As the plans for remodelling the waiting room in the Rutland railroad depot call for only a plainly finished room, several of the local business men have taken the matter up with the idea of having the interior of the room finished in a manner that will be a credit to the city. A subscription paper has been put into circulation and considerably more than one-half the amount required has already been pledged. To make the subscription a general one, \$25 pledges are being taken, although several men have offered to give \$100 and in one or two instances \$200.

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to go up 4/27

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Railroad Depot, a dominant fixture in Rutland life, met its demise approximately 100 years later. The station was constructed in 1853 on the west side of Merchants Row across from Center and Washington Streets on land donated by a civic minded merchant, James Barrett, Jr. The architect was Gurdon P. Randall. Within a year or two of its completion the station bustled with activity as dozens of passenger and freight trains passed through Rutland en route to Boston, Burlington and Troy, New York. At the turn of the century the station housed a waiting room with a lunch counter and newsstand. In 1905 the inside of the station was totally reconstructed and two additional wings were added. By the early 1950s, rail travel began to be replaced by car travel. In 1953 there was a 19 day labor strike which also produced a fatal blow to the passenger service which ended that year. A short time later, the buildings were torn down and the beautiful park was no more. By the 1960s, there was no more Rutland Railroad. Progress had taken over with the building of a shopping plaza.

Rutland Herald (1954 or '55)

A bit of "old sod"--reportedly hauled in from Chicago nearly 50 years ago--was torn up yesterday in Rutland Depot Park and started a rush reminiscent of the California gold strike of 1849. Mayor Dan J. Healy estimated the city received over 400 requests for some of the top soil being removed from the park tract in preparation for eventual paving for a municipal parking lot.

The question of who was to get the rich top soil was solved neatly with plans by the city to stockpile it for the city's own use. Mayor Healy said the city can profitably use the loam in Main Street Park or possibly on the bank between the new highway and the railroad tracks on West Street where a landscaping project has been under study for some time.

Although the requests were made strictly for its present value, the top soil has quite a history. According to long-existing and prevalent stories in the local railroad offices, the soil was brought from the stockyards area of Chicago many years ago. A search of the company's records did not produce exact verification of the story, but provided some backing for the reports. A letter dated May 21, 1905, from George T. Jarvis, then general manager of the railroad, referred to the purchase of 950 square yards of dormant sod at 15 cents a square yard.

The letter makes no reference to the source of the sod. The letter was written nine days after the "new" railroad station was opened after remodeling of the original depot and construction of the north and south wings, or annexes. A Herald account of the opening of the station stated that a park extending 75 feet wide the length of the building would contain gravel walks, grass plots and flower beds. The sod being torn up yesterday was apparently brought in at that time.

In addition to removing top soil, a Department of Public Works crew, using a power shovel, was also engaged in taking out the stumps of the park trees cut down earlier in the spring.

This past week has seen a revival of nostalgic memories as Rutland pays tribute to its past glory as the great Vermont railroad center that it once was.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Since immigration is the big topic at this time, by coincidence, a Rutland Historical Society program on "19th Century Irish Immigration To the Old Town of Rutland" is being offered during the month of May.

Synopsis of Irish Immigration by Patty Pickett, Genealogist:

The exodus of the Irish to Vermont began in the 1700's. They entered the United States through the ports of Boston, New York and Philadelphia, as well as through the British Colony of Canada. Boston, New York and Canada, in particular, were important points of migration to Vermont. Records show that, beginning in the late 1830's, Irish names began appearing on the census rolls and in land and vital records in Rutland, Vermont.

The early immigrants were farmers. Although the Rutland climate was much harsher than the one they had left behind in Ireland, land was plentiful here, and owning land was a prime objective. Names of early settlers including Cox, Connell, McNamara, Kelley, McRightson, Kelleher, Harrington, Hanley, McGuire and Barrett can be found as residents and landowners. They lived in the towns that made up Rutland of that time--which included the current towns of West Rutland, Proctor (called Sutherland Falls then), Center Rutland or Rutland Town, and Rutland City.

By the 1840's the influx of Irish to Rutland began in earnest. The crops failed year after year in Ireland and in desperation they left to come to the area in larger numbers. An increase in the Irish community was also due to the new opportunities in factories, quarries and in building Vermont's first railroads. As the numbers grew, so did their influence in Rutland. Names of Irish origin are found in numerous occupations. The contributions of the Irish immigrants helped Rutland to prosper and grow throughout the rest of the 19th century and beyond.

Two free roundtable session on "19th Century Irish Immigration To the Old Town of Rutland" will be held **Wednesday 17 May and Wednesday 24 May - 7:00 P.M. at the Society.**

Participants MUST REGISTER BY PHONE AT 773-7525 by the Tuesday prior to the event. Each session is LIMITED TO 17. Participants may register for only ONE of the sessions. These sessions will provide an opportunity for those interested in early Irish research to share common interests and information. The Society will provide three experts on Rutland Irish research for the sessions. The roundtable sessions are appropriate for any level of skill from beginner to expert.

A short, interesting note from the Rutland Daily Herald, August 10, 1896

A swarm of bees masqueraded as a cloud of smoke about the spire of St. Peter's Church early Saturday morning and somebody pulled the fire alarm. Hose No. 1 promptly responded. Firemen rushed to the steeple and up they went. Then they returned. They had received a stinging rebuke and the bees still pursued them. The top of the spire, including the cross, had been broken off

during Wednesday's storm and the bees were swarming there when the department disturbed them.

The Irish immigrants living in the Rutland area, at this time, attended St. Peter's Church.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 21, 1956 Editorial

Patent No. 1

The first patent ever to be issued by the government of the United States, as well as the holder of the patent, will be commemorated in Pittsford next Friday, when a Historic Sites Commission marker is to be dedicated on the village green. The inventor, Samuel Hopkins, is described in the patent as a resident of Philadelphia, since Vermont was not, in 1790 one of the United States.

The invention included a sort of furnace for burning raw wood and retaining more of the ashes, a method for leaching the ashes, and a method for producing more and better potash and pearl ash from the solution. At a time when the forests were being cleared away to make room for farms, wood was largely a waste product. Its conversion, after burning, into the concentrated form of potash and pearl ash, provided a substance which could be easily transported to markets where the price was high. So the farmers, as they increased their farm acreage, got much needed cash. But the process was usually very wasteful; so the methods invented by Hopkins represented a probable gain to all concerned.

In 1641, Massachusetts issued the first patent ever issued on this continent to cover a process for making salt. Other colonies issued other patents; but the protection was local. The British restricted manufacturing in the colonies, so industrial progress was very limited.

The Constitution of the United States authorized Congress to encourage science and useful arts by granting writers and inventors, for a limited time, the exclusive right to make and sell the products of their inventions. Although the inauguration of Washington took place April 30, 1789, it was more than a year before the issue of the first patent.

The original engrossed document, of which a facsimile will be seen at Pittsford, bears the great seal of the United States, a description of the item to be protected, with the terms of the patent. Beneath that is the signature of George Washington. Atty. Gen. Randolph certified that the patent was in accordance with law. Thomas Jefferson signed a statement of issuance. It was a momentous occasion.

Since that time, more than 2,700,000 patents have been issued. To a very large extent they have been responsible for the greatest industrial development in history. They have provided a limited protection to the inventor--protection which has been a great incentive. Most of the active patents have resulted in improvements beneficial to the general public, with better things at lower prices. Patented items or items in which patents have played a part pervade our daily lives and our entire economic, industrial and agricultural structure.

In today's society many of these inventions have been forgotten or taken for granted as something we have always had. The inventions since that time have increased industry and the agricultural structure was certainly changed [except for the use of the same type of animals!]. But

times have changed also, agricultural growth has become more commercial. Local farmers are a “dying breed.” Progress with the aid of many inventions has lost some of the “homespun” accomplishments.

Just when we thought nothing more could possibly be invented, there is a new TV “reality” program having people compete to produce new inventions. At least it is encouraging the use of one’s imagination, which we thought we lost.

Have you seen a child with a “Game Boy” lately?

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, August 23, 1897

E.A. Morse and Edgar H. Moore have bought the Tuttle estate property at Numbers 10,12 and 14 Washington Street. It is understood that the new owners propose to move away the wooden building and open a street [Morse Place] between Washington and Madison Streets.

A photographer was seen Saturday taking snap shots of the two buildings in anticipation of the changes to be made to that area. The wooden building, 43 years ago, was the office of The *Rutland Herald*, and the brick building to the west was the residence of George A. Tuttle.

This is the second time that a building used by the Rutland Herald will have been moved to make way for the opening of streets. In order to open Center Street to Main Street, the old Fay book store building, on the second floor of which was the Herald printing outfit, was moved away, and now the importunities of Morse Place to be shown on the Rutland City map will likely push aside the building where the weekly Herald was printed for many years and the first number of the Daily Herald was printed April 29, 1861. The Herald moved into the Washington Street building in 1854. It was then the property of Josiah Huntoon, who ran stages to east side points over the mountains and conducted the Huntoon Tavern, [later the Brock House]. The building had been put up by Huntoon for the use of the Herald and the steam printing establishment of Tuttle & Huntoon. Along the front of the building was an inclined platform serving as an approach without any steps. The Herald owned a book store in 1854 which occupied the east end of the building while the press room occupied the west side. Upstairs was the editorial room, over the press room, and in the rear of the editorial room was the composing room. Miss M. K. Thornton kept a millinery establishment for many years on the east corner of the second floor. The bindery was on the third floor. In the rear of the Herald office was a chimney 75 feet high, flanked by a large woodshed. A stationary engine in the rear of the press room, separated from it by a glass partition, furnished the power for Tuttle & Huntoon.

This part of Washington Street in 1851 was the liveliest spot in town, with the exception of the depot. At the southwest corner of Washington and Main Streets was a vacant lot. Directly to the west stood the new Huntoon building, containing the town hall, which was then the largest hall in the state. The building had a frontage of 100 feet and was in every way a well appointed business block. In it was the post office and several stores, including those of B. H. Burt and J. M. Haven. The Town Hall was on the second floor and the Masonic Hall on the third.

To the west was the Herald building and then in order came the residence of George A. Tuttle--which according to the proposed change will stand on the corner of Washington Street and Morse Place. Next came Rev. Leland Howard's residence and finally the residence of Dr. E.V.N. Harwood, dentist and deacon of the Congregational Church. On the north side of Washington Street a vacant lot extended from Deacon James Barrett's homestead on the Main Street corner to the present residence of W.C. Clement. Back of Mr. Clement's house stood the pill factory of Daniel Paige, who lived in a house on the Clement property.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, April 17, 1896

City Engineer Smith is making a survey of the east side of Nichols Street for a sidewalk for which the residents on that side of the street have asked. When the street was first laid out it was found that the house and a part of the lawn of the Brown estate were in the street. An agreement was made with the owners of the estate whereby they were to receive \$1200 for the land. This was paid, but the house was never moved out of the street. Mr. Smith is now engaged in finding out just how far back the house will have to be moved to clear the street line.

April 22, 1896

City Engineer Smith has found by surveying Nichols Street that eight feet of the west end of the Brown house is inside the street line.

July 19, 1898

A resolution to open Nichols Street, build a sidewalk and to remove a portion of what is known as the Brown building, was given its first reading.

October 19, 1899

The city has begun to remove that portion of the Brown residence on West Street which projects into Nichols Street. This is being done to widen the street at the corner.

October 26, 1899

T.C. Young, who is superintending the removal of the west end of the Brown house on West Street, preparatory to the widening of Nichols Street, has found an old Spanish silver coin in the rubbish, bearing the date 1780 and the Latin inscription, "Charles III., by the Grace of God, King of Spain and the Indies." The coin is about the size of a Canadian 20-cent piece and is said to be worth several dollars. The Brown house is one of the oldest dwellings standing in Rutland and was once the farm house standing on an estate stretching far to the north and west. The building is put together in solid fashion with hard-wood joists and heavy timbers.

January 25, 1900

That portion of the Brown house which stood in the street has been removed and the roadway macadamized from West Street to the hospital. We have also constructed a crushed stone walk on the east side of the street and a well [I presume what we call a sewer today] about 120 feet from West Street to take the surface water from the east gutter.

It certainly took them long enough, almost four years!

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, August 9, 1902

Rutland Man's Invention May Lead to New Local Industry

The invention by W. A. Hill of a steam motor for automobiles, power hoists, traveling cranes and general use may add a new industry to this city. Mr. Hill has patented the motor.

The inventor claims that it is ahead of anything on the market as a powerful, light and reliable motor for automobiles or any purpose to which it may be applied. Among the good points claimed are its double action and high power in proportion to weight, reliability, compactness, simplicity in construction and operation, economy of fuel, instant reversibility and absence of a flywheel dead center. It is stated that the four horse power motor will weigh only about 50 pounds.

Wayne S. Clark of the firm of Clark and Matthews, who did the work on the motor, said that it had not been decided yet whether the motors would be manufactured in this city or not. He said that one large company had asked for a test motor which will probably be sent to them.

Rutland Daily Herald, April 11, 1904

W.A. Hill Dead

The death of William A. Hill, for 30 years a resident of this city, occurred at his home, No. 92 State Street. Mr. Hill had suffered from consumption for almost nine years, but had been confined by his last sickness only about eight weeks. He was born at Manchester, March 14, 1845 and was married in Troy, N.Y. in 1864 to Miss Sarah Davis of Manchester. Soon after the wedding they moved to this city, where for many years Mr. Hill had been successively foreman of the Mansfield & Stimson and F.R. Patch Companies' machine shops. Mr. Hill was for a number of years a member of the volunteer fire department as engineer of the steamer. He was a past master of the local Masonic Lodge and one of the first members of Vermont Lodge, Knights of Pythias. He is survived by his wife and one brother, Charles J. Hill of New York City.

One has to wonder what ever happened to his steam motor that he had patented almost two years prior to his death.

On a lighter note, in case you're considering raising sheep!

Rutland Daily Herald, April 11, 1904

Stupidity of Sheep

The Way These Exasperatingly Foolish Animals Court Death

A sheep herder gives some of his experience in handling sheep:

We have to watch them every minute and if vigilance is delayed for an instant the entire flock is likely to commit suicide. In handling most animals some degree of self help or intelligence can be relied on to aid the owner in saving their lives, but sheep seem to set deliberately to work to kill themselves.

If caught in a storm, they will drift before the wind and die of cold and exposure rather than move 100 yards to windward to obtain shelter in their corral. To drive sheep against the wind is absolutely impossible. I once lost over 1,000 head because I could not drive them to a corral 200 feet away.

In the corral they are still more foolish. If a storm comes up, they all move "down wind" until stopped by the fence. Then commences the proceeding so much dreaded by sheepmen, known as "piling." The sheep will climb over one another's backs until they are heaped up ten feet high. Of course all those on the bottom are smothered. Not one has sense enough to seek shelter under the tree or the fence as a horse or dog would do.

Again, if a sheep gets into quicksand its fate teaches nothing to those that come immediately after, but the whole flock will follow the leader to destruction. No more exasperatingly stupid animal than a sheep walks.

[Wonder if they're related to lemmings!]

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 25, 1895

A MORNING FIRE

Brisk Blaze in a Block on Merchants Row

Fire gutted a section of John W. Cramton's block on the east side of Merchants' Row a little before daylight yesterday morning. The section damaged is occupied by Van Doorn & Tilson's crockery store, Charles B. Hilliard's dry goods store, F.H. Wheeler's jewelry store, Mrs. F.C. Eddy's millinery store, Grow's music rooms, Judge George E. Lawrence's law office, Jenne and Rice's Insurance and Law office, Grand Army Hall, the Woman's Relief Corps Hall, Equitable Aid Union Hall and Mrs. D. V. Giffin's dressmaking rooms. All suffered severely, either from the fire itself or indirectly through heat, smoke or water.

The fire was discovered by Elias C. Stevens, who lived in the block directly north of the one owned by Mr. Cramton. He was awakened about two'clock by a feeling of suffocation. He jumped out of bed and lighting a lamp, saw the room was filled with dense smoke. He ran to the bedroom of Thomas Bennett and aroused him and told him to sound the fire alarm. Mr. Bennett ran to the Bates House to get a key to the fire alarm box. The clerk was nowhere to be found so he hastened to the fire station and aroused the men.

Meantime Mr. Stevens had aroused the other lodgers and, putting his head out the rear window, called "Fire." George Tower, a call fireman, who lived on Edson Street heard the cry and saw smoke pouring from the rear of Van Doorn & Tilson's store. He ran to box 43, at the corner of West and Edson Streets, but before he could get there, Hose 1 had arrived and Capt. Dunton rang an alarm from box 47, at the corner of Merchants' Row and Center Street. This brought Hose 2 [now home of the Rutland Historical Society] and Chief Engineer Hannum. The fire was confined to the vicinity of the stairway leading from the cellar to Van Doorn & Tilson's store where, it is assumed, the fire started.

Mr. Tilson arrived and opened the store door. The chief ordered a stream put in the store to flood the floor. The ladder truck was then sent for and two streams were ordered to the roof from the outside. Two more were sent up on the inside and the water was put on from every point of vantage. The call men had responded promptly and were soon hard at work. An hour after the fire was discovered, it was under control. It was cold work as the temperature was 10 degrees below zero.

As the streams left the pipes and plunged hissing into the network of flames, the spray froze in icy particles and flew back into the faces of the pipemen or drenched their clothing, despite their heavy rubber coats and helmets, weighting and stiffening them like boards until it was with difficulty that the men were able to get around. As fast as the water struck the building it congealed and stuck to the brick in sheets or hung in heavy icicles, ready to drop without

warning. Despite bitter cold and drenched and frozen clothing, the men fought desperately and well.

On the second floor the smoke was suffocating and so thick that it was with difficulty that the firemen could see. Through this Chief Hannum, Capt. Dunton and Pipeman McDermott and Aleck Keefe made their way. Through the smoke, near the rear of the building, Chief Hannum discovered a hole in the floor directly over the stairway in Van Doorn & Tilson's store. Springing back, he warned the men, but his warning came a second too late, for Keefe had stepped over the edge and disappeared like a flash into the ruins below. Throwing himself on his side, the chief called to the fireman, who pluckily answered and retained his hold on the end of the sharp, half-burned beam upon which he had fallen. Then he fainted, just as the chief, Capt. Dunton and McDermott grasped him by the collar and drew him, limp and apparently lifeless, to the floor above. It was found that he had fallen on his stomach and had badly bruised his body. He was advised to go home, but this he refused to do and as soon as he was able to walk went back to the burning building and fought fire with the rest.

After the fire was over the interior of the block presented a dismal appearance. Van Doorn & Tilson's store was a total wreck. The display of white china and crockery was as brown as nuts and was covered with charred wood and water. A sign in the window, standing over a lot of marked-down cooking utensils and crockery, informed the public that "These goods will not be offered at these prices again." True, no doubt. A. J. Hubbard's jewelry store had not suffered as much as the rest as it was gold and silverware and in a safe or closed showcases, but the damage from smoke and water was considerable. The store occupied by Mrs. F. C. Eddy and Mrs. Wheeler suffered from smoke and water, but escaped the flames. Charles B. Hilliard's dry goods store was flooded six inches deep with water which filtered through the ceiling. Besides being damaged by water his goods were injured by smoke. Mrs. D.V. Giffin's dressmaking rooms suffered most from fire. They were situated directly over the conflagration and were completely gutted. In F. M. Grow's music rooms, water ran through the ceiling onto the pianos and organs, where it froze and hung in icicles or dripped inside and rusted the strings before the instruments could be dried.

The Grand Army Hall suffered severely and was practically gutted. A stuffed eagle that hung from the ceiling had fallen and was tipped up on what remained of the piano and presented a very woebegone appearance as it lay with its feathers singed and its wings nearly burned off, one claw still desperately grasping a bunch of arrows. Many of the pictures in Grand Army Hall that were ruined can never be replaced. The record book recently given to the post by J. W. Cramton was saved uninjured.

The fire was the most extensive one since the introduction of the paid department. Everyone praised the work of the men and the general opinion seemed to be that the "croakers" [complainers] would have to succumb at last. Gen. W.Y.W. Ripley, who resided in a suite of rooms in the Ripley block [directly across on Merchants Row], was first awakened by Hose 1 on the outside pavement. He watched the progress of the firemen from the start to the finish and spoke in the highest terms of their efficient and careful work, as did many other civilians who observed the new department at work.

The German mastiff pup at Fire Station 1 followed the wagon to the fire and was an excited and enthusiastic spectator of all that transpired. He would chase from the front of the block to the rear, regardless of smoke and water, and would add his yelps to the shouts of the men. On one of his excursions he came in contact with a white bulldog with a "watch" eye. When the pup retired he was minus a slice of one ear, but he stuck by the wagon through thick and thin and returned to the house only when the team went to the station.

The origin of the fire was a mystery, but it was probable that it was caused by a combination of matches and rats in the partitions.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 25, 1899

The Railroad Roundhouse to Be Torn Down

It is expected that the dome of the railroad roundhouse, for many years the most prominent landmark in its part of the town, will today disappear forever. The supports under its base have been cut away more than half the way around. The plan is to pull out, with locomotives, some temporary braces and let the structure collapse. The roundhouse was built in 1864. The dome carries a great accumulation of soot and dirt and great clouds of dust are expected to come from its fall. The old turntable has been taken out and the house is completely dismantled and abandoned. The dome is built of wood and has relatively little weight, but is about 80 feet in diameter and 50 feet in height, not counting the lantern.

The destruction of this roundhouse and the building of a new one come as a result of the increase in weight of rolling stock in recent years. It comes with the laying of heavier rails and the building of stronger bridges. Modern engines are longer than the old ones. The turntable for the new house is accordingly 60 feet long, with stalls in proportion. It was practically impossible to enlarge the old house as much as was required, and therefore it comes down.

The new house will be in the form of a semi-circle with a "pitched roof." It will have a turntable outside the building, but within the semi-circle. It will hold 18 engines--two more than the capacity of the old house.

New Well

August 22, 1899: Work on the artesian well which is being bored south of the small engine house has been suspended for several days, as the drill is lodged in the rock and it is a difficult job to get it out again.

September 7, 1899: The boring for the Rutland Railroad's artesian well south of the half round-house has now reached a depth of 180 feet, with no water yet. The last 112 feet of the boring has been through the bedrock.

New Engine House

September 15, 1899

The brickwork of the new engine house is completed and carpenters are putting on the roof. The new iron turntable has arrived and is ready to be set up.

Talking Engines

A crowd of several hundred people, located on the River Street bridge and in other places where they could see the remains of the old roundhouse, stayed all day. It was remarked that locomotives seemed alive and that the engines about the yard might say interesting things if they talked. An observer who thinks they did talk gives the following as a fragment of their discourse:

Ten-Wheeler-- "This has been a great day. I'm glad to see the old hencoop down at last. There was never room enough in it for a bell to ring, to say nothing of sleeping and resting."

No. 235-- "I'm glad it's gone, too; and I'm the boy who pulled it down, please understand."

No. 240-- "It isn't always the fellow who strikes the last blow who drives the nail. I did the really hard work in the case myself, but I couldn't drop regular work to finish it. Somebody else must have the glory. But I broke the big cable and pulled out the hard sticks."

The Mogul-- "It seems to me that I heard somebody say that No. 240 pulled its tender wheels into the air!"

Derisive chorus-- "Choo, choo, choo, choo!"

No. 240-- "Hello, old slowcoach Mogul! Are you awake? Just wait until I get a good cleaning in the new roundhouse and I'll show you how to haul a train!"

No. 229-- "Boys, you don't know what you're are talking about! It dims my old steam gauge to hear such words. That old roundhouse has been my home ever since I was first painted--it was new when I came here as a boy--and I want it spoken of respectfully. You are a stout fellow, No. 240, but you are young yet and you don't know what trouble is. Just wait until you stick your smokestack into the ditch some dark night and you will take a more serious view of things."

No. 240-- "Pooh, pooh! When I don't know enough to stay on the iron I'll start for the scrap heap!"

No. 229-- "Perhaps you know everything that's worth knowing, but I was made during the war and cost three times as much as you did, even if I am small. And what will you do if somebody sets the switch wrong for you? Did you ever hear what happened to old Chester?"

No. 235-- "Who was Chester?"

No. 229-- "Whew! Think of the question! Chester was here working with the rest of us but yesterday, and has gone to its reward. Peace to its scrap! How very young these big fellows are! Chester was one of the first settlers, let me tell you. Chester always had sand in its box and steam for its whistle. Chester never failed to attend to business, but it had an awful accident."

The Mogul-- "What happened to Chester?"

No. 229-- "Chester struck an open switch with a passenger train just the other side of the bridge at Brockway's, down toward Bellows Falls. It makes my headlight dizzy to think of it. Chester did the best possible thing--it sacrificed itself and saved the train. It broke loose from the car, jumped over 40 feet--of course it could not stop--and landed on its back at the bottom of the 100-foot embankment. Ed. Foss was running it and Superintendent Kenney was fireman. They went with the engine, and I've heard Mr. Kenney say a hundred times that the first thing he saw was old Chester flat on its back, running its drive-wheels as steadily as you please. Mr. Kenney was stunned in the scrape."

Chorus-- "Chee, chee, chee! Running wheels on its back! Where'd Chester keep its steam?"

No. 229-- "The steam was all right. Chester was working with water, of course. Any engine might be a little rattled after such a jump. Foss went down and thought the cars would roll down but Chester prevented that. The two men went up to see about the passengers. Some were in

hysterics, some crying and some laughing, some were scared fairly out of their wits and a few kept their heads. 'Is anybody hurt?' Foss asked, and somebody said 'No, nobody hurt.' After a while old Chester was pulled up and sent to the hospital, the worst looking engine you ever saw. But Chester had a good constitution and came out after a while almost as good as new and did lots of honest work. That accident was just 30 years ago last Monday--July 24, 1869."

No. 240-- "But then, No. 229, you'll be glad to have a fine new roundhouse, I suppose, in spite of your talk about the old times?"

No. 229--"New roundhouse! Call that thing a roundhouse, where you are run into a shed and left sticking your tail out like a mule! The old roundhouse was good enough for me. We backed into that properly and faced the turntable, with a big dome in the center to keep the storm off our heads--I'm told that there were but two bigger domes in the whole country and one of them covers rascality instead of honest iron at Washington--and when a dozen of us got in there of a stormy night, we were cleaned up and had our brass polished, we looked like business, let me tell you! We were somebodies, too. I was Gov. Underwood, and mighty proud of my name. Now I'm nothing but an old machine with a number, and I have to sit here under the stars and listen while a lot of overgrown kids that hardly know a snowdrift from claybank pull my old house down and then abuse it, and don't know what I mean when I say something about old Chester. Pah! It's enough to rob the scrap heap of all terrors."

[And how many humans feel the same way about old buildings that have come down and removed the memories of their past?]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 20, 1900

Bennington & Rutland Sold To Percival W. Clement

The negotiations which have been going on for some time for a closer alliance between the Rutland Railroad Company and the Bennington and Rutland Railway Company culminated yesterday. Percival W. Clement entered into a contract to buy all of the stock of the Bennington and Rutland Railroad, presumably for the Rutland road. This means that the Bennington and Rutland passes into the control of the Rutland.

Mr. Clement was not in town yesterday, and Treasurer H. G. Smith was in Toronto, but a *Herald* reporter learned from a railroad official that the consolidation of the two roads will probably lead to a transfer of the offices of the Bennington and Rutland from Bennington to this city. It may also be necessary to consolidate the shops and rearrange the freight yard.

Gen. McCullough, president of the Bennington and Rutland, left Bennington for New York yesterday. When asked concerning the purchase of the Bennington and Rutland road he said: "The final arrangements for the transfer and virtual consolidation will soon be consummated. This step will be mutually beneficial to the two roads, to the patrons of each and to the general public. Vermont, and especially western Vermont, is to be heartily congratulated over this natural consolidation. In the first place, it brings her railroad system into closer affiliation with the New York Central, for doubtless the Rutland, with the completion of its Rutland-Canadian connection, will proceed to obtain trackage rights or other privileges over the Fitchburg to Troy and on to Albany, and thus give the traveling public not only the most direct and continuous, but the most picturesque route from the Grand Central depot to Montreal--up the Hudson, along the western Vermont valley, by the shores and over the islands that lie like gems in the very center of Lake Champlain. Its through freight connections, also, to and from Chicago and the West over the Rutland Transit Company's line (formerly the Ogdensburg Transit Company), the Ogdensburg and Lake Champlain road, the Rutland-Canadian and the Rutland, by way of Bellows Falls, and over the Cheshire and the Fitchburg to Boston and the East, and over the Bennington and Rutland to New York and the South, will furnish the business community the cheapest and most eligible routes for moving traffic.

"It has been the pride of the owners of the Bennington and Rutland to keep its physical condition up to the highest standard and it will be the desire, as it will be to the interest, of the new proprietors to keep and place it in even better condition, in order that it may accommodate the new business which this new alliance must surely turn over to the road. This consolidation, too, eliminates the Washington County road as a threatening or disturbing factor, and it is to be hoped forever forges together the links in the chain of a western Vermont railway system thus securing to this section not only a permanent through line, but more frequent through passenger and freight trains, with better facilities and a higher grade of service."

The Bennington and Rutland railroad extends from Bennington to Rutland, 57.06 miles, and from North Bennington to White Creek, on the New York State line; total length, 58.91 miles, with 5.25 miles of sidings.

The road was chartered as the Western Vermont Railroad Company in November 1845. The branch from North Bennington to the state line to connect with the Troy and Bennington Railroad was opened July 1852, and the part from North Bennington to Bennington in 1854. It went into the hands of mortgage trustees in January 1857, and was consolidated with the Lebanon Springs Railroad in February 1870 under the name of the Harlem Extension Railroad Company. This consolidated line was leased to the Central Vermont Railroad Company in 1873, but the lease was abandoned four years later, and the road reverted to the trustees of the original companies. A reorganization under the name of the Bennington and Rutland Railroad Company followed, and this company has operated the property since September 1877. The president of the Bennington and Rutland, Gen. John G. McCullough, has been in the railroad service for a quarter of a century. He has been vice president and president of the Panama Railroad, director of the Central Vermont Railroad and vice president of the Bennington and Rutland, of which road he became president in 1883. Since that date he has also been president pro tem, of the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad, president of the Chicago and Erie Railroad and receiver of the New York, Lake Erie and Western Railroad. His conservative judgment and long experience have served to make the Bennington and Rutland a fine bit of railroad property.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, Wednesday, October 31, 1894

The Old Cold River Mystery

Shortly after noon on Monday, Henry Harris was arrested for the murder of Henry DeMille Lawrence and on Monday evening, Albert Brown was arrested for complicity in the same crime.

The first arrest was made at a farm in the immediate vicinity of Rutland where Harris was employed. The arresting officers were Sheriff Peabody and Deputy Sheriff Whittaker. The second arrest was made at Brown's house in Shrewsbury, near the Mead & Noyes sawmill by Deputy Sheriffs Whittaker and Stearns.

Both of the prisoners were committed to the House of Correction. They were arraigned before Justice Bailey Monday night, and at the request of the government the hearing was continued to November 14. The prisoners were held without bail on the charge of murder in the first degree.

The murder of Henry De Mille Lawrence occurred some time during the winter of 1889-90. It has been famous in the scanty annals of Rutland County crime as the Cold River Mystery. The body of Lawrence, whose parents lived in this city, was found near Cold River, in the town of Shrewsbury, Tuesday, April 15, 1890.

Lawrence had not been seen in the city or its vicinity since November 25, 1889. All the efforts of the authorities at the time failed to ascertain his whereabouts. They were unable to discover either the motive or the perpetrators of his murder. Suspicion pointed in various directions, notably toward a resort of doubtful character between this city and Shrewsbury, but no tangible evidence ever warranted the making of any arrests.

About four weeks ago Deputy Sheriff Whittaker received information which led him to take renewed interest in a case which has never been far from the thoughts of the sheriff's department. He informed Deputy Sheriff Stearns of some new developments, and together they went to work. Piece by piece and bit by bit the evidence which was coming to the surface, after four and a half years, was unraveled and put in shape for official action. At last sufficient evidence was developed to warrant the arrests which were made Monday.

The Crime

The body was found on the afternoon of Tuesday, April 15, 1890, in the solitude of the cliffs and forests skirting Cold River in North Shrewsbury. The discovery was made by Mrs. Lydia B. Brown, who was out on a lonely logging trail gathering evergreens. She gave a hurried alarm and soon C. A. Spofford, George and Henry Plumley, George Johnson, Jacob Bucke and George Brown were on the spot.

No attempt was made to remove the body that evening, but the next morning Justice Morse and First Selectman Russell of Shrewsbury made a careful search of the remains, the clothing and the surroundings, and afterward removed the body to the barn of Mrs. Brown, some half a mile away from the spot where it had been found. A careful examination failed to assist in the identification of the remains, or to indicate the cause of death. It was concluded from the surroundings that the body had not washed down the stream, and there was good reason for the conclusion that death was not the result of starvation.

The descriptions of at least half a score of “missing men” were obtained and compared, and many anxious friends journeyed to Shrewsbury to satisfy themselves whether they had any interest in the remains. *Herald* reporters worked assiduously and wisely on the case without the knowledge of the authorities. On the evening of the 17th the men had found enough evidence to justify calling upon Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lawrence at their home at 55 East Street. They obtained a description of the Lawrence’s son. Mr. Lawrence described the clothing worn by his son and a “tailor’s tag” positively identified the clothing worn by the deceased. On the 19th the reporters were able to publish that the victim was Henry De Mille Lawrence of East Poultney.

At the suggestion of the *Herald* men, the selectmen had obtained the services of Dr. George Rustedt who made a careful autopsy of the remains. At the conclusion of the autopsy Dr. Rustedt stated that “there was no shadow of doubt that death resulted from blows on the head by some blunt weapon in the hands of a man, any one of which was sufficient to cause death”. Another son of Mr. Lawrence identified a large brass key as one used by his brother in a hotel in Canton, Del. and a sister positively identified the hat and necktie.

As far as could be ascertained at the time, it was believed that the man was killed in the winter of ‘89-90. Hugh G. Lloyd of Granville, N. Y. who was employed as a painter by the Mosley & Stoddard Company, stated that he had met Lawrence on the morning of November 25, and they went to Wallingford together. They went to Danby later in the day and separated there, Lawrence starting for Troy, N. Y. and Lloyd returning to Rutland.

The Resolution

A hearing on the matter of this murder was to take place on November 14, 1894. Because of a full court agenda, it was postponed for two weeks. On December 12, the continued hearing was held with eight witnesses present. Henry Harris waived examination and was committed to the County jail to await action of the Grand Jury. Albert Brown pleaded guilty, waived examination and was also committed to the County jail to await action of the Grand Jury.

This was a “Cold Case” for over four years when it was solved. And we all thought that the solving of “Cold Cases” was something new!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 25, 1897

Capt. E. A. Morse died yesterday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock. His death removes a citizen long identified with Rutland, both in a business and social way. He had been a merchant and a soldier and was a public spirited citizen and a genial companion.

E. A. Morse came to Rutland 50 years ago and started a drug store in the Vail block on Main Street. This store was moved to the site of the Killington Bank building and then to the Savings Bank building, or the Morse block, as it is called. He built a block on that corner and after it burned down he rebuilt. In about 1868 the Captain went to New York and was in business there with Col. F. E. Smith, now of Montpelier, for several years. Later he was connected with the Howe Scale Company. It was in part, due to his efforts, that the plant of this corporation was transferred from Brandon to Rutland. During this time he had no active business, but devoted himself principally to looking after his real estate interests in this city. He was about to take possession of the Morse residence on Main Street and had about completed plans for remodeling this fine old colonial mansion for a home for himself.

Edward Alonzo Morse was born in Franklin, Mass., 65 years ago. He was living in Rutland at the breaking out of the war of the rebellion and was mustered into the United States service as Quartermaster of the 1st Vermont regiment with the rank of First Lieutenant May 2, 1861. He was mustered out of the service the following August. Six months later, February 12, 1862, he re-entered the service as regimental quartermaster under the command of Col. George T. Roberts of the 7th Vermont. While in the 1st regiment he was at Big Bethel, the first battle of the war. He served at Fortress Monroe and Newport News and he was detailed as acting brigade quartermaster and commissary upon the staff of Gen. John W. Phelps.

Capt. Morse's active services in the 7th Vermont began at Ship Island and he was under Butler at New Orleans. He served at Baton Rouge, Carrollton and Vicksburg, after which he was detailed as brigade commissary upon the staff of Gen. Dudley, serving until November 27, 1862, when he was promoted captain and assistant quartermaster of volunteers. Capt. Morse reported to Gen. Butler after leaving the 7th regiment and took command of the latter's light draught river steamboats. While on this duty, Col. S.B. Halbird ordered him to Baton Rouge as post quartermaster, and when the army moved to Port Hudson he was appointed chief quartermaster of Gen. Anger's division.

On the fall of Port Hudson, Capt. Morse was ordered to repair the Opelousas railroad, which had been destroyed. Having taken possession of the foundries and machine shops, he had 80 miles of the road running within 14 days. He then repaired 38 miles of the Jackson railroad. Another exploit in the way of rapid work was the building of a railroad in six days from the Mississippi River through the streets of New Orleans to Lake Pontchartrain. The first locomotive built south of Richmond was turned out of the shops run by Quartermaster Morse. He also built freight and passenger cars and several small steamboats, as well as directed an immense amount of repairing. He raised two regiments of colored troops for work on railroads. He served as military

superintendent of railroads in the department of the gulf until the close of the war, and was mustered out September 20, 1865.

In 1865 Capt. Morse married Jennie M. Royce, daughter of Rodney C. Royce. She died May 12, 1880, and he never remarried. He leaves one son, E.R. Morse of this city. Capt. Morse died of pneumonia. He caught a cold four weeks ago. This developed into pneumonia and for several days past no hope was entertained of his recovery.

December 28, 1897

The funeral of Capt. Edmund A. Morse was held at the Congregational Church yesterday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Roberts Post, the Elks and the Killington Commandery of Knights Templar were present, the latter having charge of the services at the grave. Rev. Dr. Norman Seaver conducted the service, assisted by Rev. Dr. G. W. Phillips.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Newsliner, March/April 1953

Rutland Wizards Defeat Burlington

Rutland Railway's duckpin wizards returned from Burlington not long ago with a 3-0 victory over the Burlington team which had challenged the Rutlanders to a home-and-home series.

Fernand Catozzi and Ken Taylor were the only two Rutlanders who had ever bowled the duckpins previous to the Burlington invasion but Craig (Bombsight) Dagg acted like a veteran, leading the Rutland team with a 316 score.

Rutland		Burlington	
Taylor	242	J. Thomas	254
Bump	271	Stannard	246
Dagg	316	Hella	246
Catozzi	313	Shelochey	264
Polcaro	<u>301</u>	S. Thomas	<u>298</u>
Total:	1443	Total:	1308

The Burlington bowlers travelled to Rutland to play a return match on January 31st, bringing not only their men's team but also a women's team. Rutland's luck held out on this occasion, with the women's team comprised of Betty Raleigh, Charlotte Phalen, Ruth Clifford, Clare Kearney and Sheila Carroll bowling against the newly formed women's team from Burlington, which although new at the game, were good sports.

On February 7th, both a women's and men's team met with the Howe Scale Company at the Rutland Bowling Center and the Rutland Railway met its "Waterloo", taking a loss in the three games bowled to the tune of sixty pins in the total pin fall.

RUTLAND RAILWAY LEAGUE

Timekeeper office (2)

Average	225
Average	210
Average	210
R. Bump	257
C. Dagg	297
Handicap	<u>30</u>
Total	1229

Freight Traffic (0)

R. Clark	235
F. Lehr	231

Purchasing (1)

J. Powers	210
G. Spaulding	239
Spafford	179
J. Czachor	246
B.Melen	244
Average	<u>75</u>
Total	1193

Passenger Dept. (3)

C. Phalen	216
C. Kearney	252

P. Panarella	264
R. Conant	265
Average	<u>210</u>
Total	1205

R. Rogers	283
B. Blickarz	239
G. Welsh	270
Handicap	<u>42</u>
Total	1302

Storehouse (3)

Clifford	244
Turner	238
Ross	284
Carroll	242
Polcaro	303
Handicap	<u>6</u>
Total	1317

Icehouse (0)

Terrill	255
Collins	267
Roberts	240
Stanowski	235
Average	225
Average	<u>225</u>
Total	1222

Chief Engineers (0)

LaPenna	254
Prenevost	256
Caggige	275
Taylor	254
Average	210
Handicap	<u>36</u>
Total	1285

Freight Office (3)

R. Ellis	221
A. Leonard	242
Camardo	309
Intellasio	311
Catozzi	<u>312</u>
Total	1395

Just thought these tidbits might bring back some memories of the Rutland Railroad days to coincide with the display of decorated trains in the downtown area.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Newsliner, March/April, 1953

Alburgh Trestle Being Dismantled

The Alburgh Coal Trestle which has been an old landmark at Alburgh and no longer required due to the dieselization of the Rutland Railway is being dismantled. The timber being salvaged, which represents thousands of dollars, will be used to repair Rouses Point Trestle and other small bridges of the railroad, thus saving the company money in materials.

The Alburgh Trestle was started in 1902 and completed that year. Prior to building this, the Rutland Railway had erected bins on 30-foot posts, and coal was shoveled into buckets and hoisted by a portable upright steam engine to the bins. In 1901 this structure was moved 500 feet north to where it now stands near the coach track. The material used in this was all No.1 Georgia Pine, long leaf, and at least fifty percent or more of the original timber is still in use in the trestle and bins.

In 1923 when the Rutland Railway no longer moved any of its steel hopper cars to mines for loading, all coal arrived at Alburgh in foreign cars, which were transferred through a coal chute into the Rutland Railway's own equipment to save per diem charges. Prior to this work being done, the chute was reinforced with two extra posts to each bent and from that time thousands of tons have poured through this structure.

A second hand coal conveyor has been purchased by the Rutland Railway from the Boston & Maine Railroad and this will be used to coal the few remaining steam engines at Alburgh, until dieselization is complete.

So now we know the impact of diesel trains as they came to the Rutland Railway in the early 1950s!

Tidbits From Then and Now

City of Rutland Annual Report, 1931

In order to relieve unemployment conditions this fall, \$3,000 was appropriated for the purpose of doing work on approximately 50 acres in Carpenter Park on Pine Hill. From 30 to 45 men have been employed in this project and have been clearing out trails, widening and grading roads, cutting cord wood, clearing out boundary lines and removing all the brush growth and fire-killed trees. [Does anyone remember about a fire on Pine Hill?]

It does not seem advisable to attempt to build and maintain automobile roads through the entire tract, nor to make it anything but what it is--a forest tract--but it is the intention, if funds are available, to build a road for cars up into the park from Evergreen Avenue to a cleared parking space and another road from there to join Watkins Avenue. Cars would then be left at the parking space and people could roam around the cleared trails on foot, build fires for cooking meals in prepared rock fireplaces and enjoy the rustic surroundings. [Wonder if this really happened!]

Excerpts from the 1999 Rutland Historical Society Quarterly by Paul Crossman

Development of the Rocky Pond Recreational Area from 1952 to 1954 is probably one of the more notable examples of Rutland community cooperation and enthusiasm in an ambitious undertaking. The center of the development was an eight-acre pond surrounded by a wooded area. Access to the pond is through city-owned Pine Hill Park in the northwest section of Rutland.

A one -mile gravel road with a 230 -foot rise connects the northern end of Evergreen Avenue with Rocky Pond while winding through the 275-acre Pine Hill Park. The road is rocky and washed out from years of erosion and lack of repair. It is presently closed to vehicular traffic but does offer hikers access to the pond in a very pristine setting.

Combining natural beauty with accessibility, the Rocky Pond area has always been available to Rutland's population, but was seldom used. Through the generous support of various service clubs, businesses and individual contributors and many hours of volunteer labor, the Rocky Pond Recreational Area grew from a mere conception in 1952 to a reality when it was officially opened to the public two years later.

[This once beautiful recreational spot with the beach, bathhouse and picnic area lasted only a few years as it was impossible to constantly supervise the area. Because of a drowning and major vandalism the area was abandoned as a public recreational area. Many Rutland residents will always remember trekking up the old road to go fishing at Rocky Pond.]

PINE HILL PARK Rutland Recreation and Parks Department brochure-2006

Rutland City's Natural Playground: The map is an artistic representation of the trails in Pine Hill Park. All trails are intermediate mountain biking and easy to moderate hiking. There are 27 trails

with a total of 11.13 miles. It is open for day use only. There is no camping, fires, hunting or removing of any plant or animal life.

The dreams of 1931 for Pine Hill Park may have finally come true.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, July 15, 1902

Isolation Hospital Almost Destroyed by Yesterday's Storm

The worst wind, rain and electric storm in this section this year broke out over the city about 12:20 yesterday afternoon and the temporary isolation hospital east of the city was almost completely demolished. The storm continued to rage for almost 30 minutes and did a great deal of damage to the gardens and meadows in this vicinity. None of the inmates of the isolation hospital were seriously injured by the damage to the buildings.

The air had been very muggy and close previous to the storm and the wind, lightning and thunder which accompanied the rain were appalling. The clouds hung low and it was so dark that one could not read without extra illumination. The electric lights and street railway power were turned off for about 20 minutes during the worst of the storm.

A severe hail storm of about five minutes duration occurred at 12:30 accompanied by a driving wind which blew down trees and chimneys and devastated the country produce hereabouts. The hailstones ranged from a pea to a marble in size.

The blast which destroyed the isolation hospital struck the building about 12:30. The only patient in the male ward was Lynn Brigham, who, noticing that the door was blowing through, tried to hold it in place with the assistance of nurse John McKean. Suddenly the building began to rock and realizing that it was about to go, the men jumped through the doorway just as the structure was lifted into the air and after several complete somersaults landed right side up about 40 feet east of its original site. Brigham got caught in the water pipe leading to the ward and bruised his leg quite badly. McKean also hurt his knee.

The rain was falling in torrents and the wind blew a like a hurricane over the hill on which the hospital is located. The two men ran at once to the female ward and had Miss Valerie LaMountain, the only patient, and her mother go to the old hospital building a few feet away. The female ward would undoubtedly have gone the way of the other building had it not been for a large rock in the rear, which held it upright and one end in place. The other end was twisted a few feet to the east by the wind.

When the male ward struck the ground it collapsed like an eggshell and the beds, tables and other modern hospital fittings, with which it was equipped less than a week ago, were demolished. One of the beds was projected through a window and held up a small section of the building.

Both of the men were drenched by the rain, which also beat through the temporary buildings and saturated the floor and some clothing. A bed was removed to the main building, which will be occupied by the women until other quarters are found. The men will use the female ward temporarily.

The temporary hospital buildings were built a few weeks ago by Fred Smith, at considerable expense and was equipped and made as comfortable and attractive as possible under the circumstances. [It is assumed that the temporary buildings were in place at this time due to a huge epidemic of smallpox and measles, during the summer, as recorded in the city report of 1902.].

There was about an hour yesterday when the Western union telegraph office was completely cut off from all communication with the outer world. The Postal telegraph office also had trouble with its wires. The switchboards at both offices were almost a sheet of flame during the heavy lightning and thunder and the sharp reports from the wires sounded much like a roll of musketry.

The wires of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company were also damaged and many local lines were in trouble, while the outside connections were in several instances in bad shape.

Seems like some of the recent storms being reported are "history repeating itself"!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, August 16, 1906

A Simple life

Herman Barber of 35 Summer Street in His 85th Year--Working Nearly Every Day

Herman R. Barber was born in Benson, January 29, 1822, one of a family of eight children. His mother died when he was 10 months old. His father, who was a shoemaker was unable to give him much of an education. What little book knowledge he did get was obtained at the little old stone school house in his native village. At the age of eight years his father put him to work on his uncle Moses J. Barber's farm, which was situated near Benson. There he worked until he was 19 years of age, rising at 5 and sometimes even 4 o'clock in the morning and laboring steadily till 6 or 7 o'clock at night.

At last he decided to break away from the drudgery of farm life and apprenticed himself to a joiner. He soon learned the trade and has worked almost unceasingly in that vocation up to the present day.

Mr. Barber is a great believer in the future of Vermont. He has lived all his life within the borders of his native state and has seen the development of most of her commercial interests from their infancy. Mr. Barber first visited Rutland in 1845 at the age of 23 years. The city was then only a short stretch of Main Street with a small inn at either extremity. The only means of communication with the outside world was by a rickety stage, which ran at irregular intervals. He did not then realize that the obscure little village would grow in 40 years to be the prosperous city that it is at the present time. It is no wonder that one who has witnessed the steady consistent growth of the Green Mountain state should have high hopes for her future development.

Mr. Barber's life has been much like that of his state--steady and consistent. About all the traveling he has ever done has been from his home to the shop and back again. The strife and struggle of life have seemingly had little or no effect on him. At the outbreak of the Civil War he attempted to enlist but was rejected, so even that great struggle, whose ugly signature is seen on so many old men, failed to mark him. His physical and mental fabric are untouched by the many ailments which so often attack those in the evening of life.

For the last 15 years Mr. Barber has been employed by the Stoddard Manufacturing Company of this city as a blind and sash joiner and his fellow workers say that he is as good as the best of them. However, Mr. Barber's working days will soon be over as he expects to go west in a short time where he will probably pass the rest of his life with his married daughter.

To some this old Vermonter's life may seem monotonous and uninteresting, but on second thought there are few who will not admit that this hail and hearty old fellow has really had a great

deal more out of life than many a grouty old adventurer whose old age is filled with the sorrowful fruit of a life of struggles and disappointments.

That was one hundred years ago. One hundred years later young Vermonters have many more opportunities to observe and be involved in the progress of their native state. Is it happening, or are these younger natives taking their interests and abilities to other states?

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, September 20, 1906

Auspicious Opening of County Fair

September 19th was the opening day of the Rutland County Fair. Judging by the first day's performance, this year's exhibition will be an improvement over that of last season. The promise of the managers to pay all premiums has attracted more exhibitors of stock than would otherwise have attended and the showing in floral hall is said to be much better than for several past seasons.

In the cattle pens 70 head were shown. The Elm Hill Farm of Clarendon sent 15 head of Holstein-Fresian cattle including two remarkably handsome young bulls. M.O. Thomas of Rutland also exhibited 15 head of Holsteins. E. M. Pike of Rutland sent nine head of Ayrshire cattle including the handsome yearling bull "Butternut Boy." Barker Cramton of the town of Rutland showed seven head of Holsteins. L. H. Anderson also sent the same number of the same breed and Walter Cramton five head of Ayrshires.

The sheep pens held many fine specimens of registered sheep, including some interesting fancy breeds and some handsome bucks. Some well marked Plymouth Rocks were shown in the exhibition of fowls which included about 150 fowls.

In the floral hall there were the usual miscellaneous exhibits including a display of fruit and vegetables. Around the sides of the building were the booths of various firms wishing to advertise their goods.

W. H. Freer & Co. of Troy NY displayed some of the finest specimens of horse blankets and robes that they have ever shown at fairs. The Rochester Clothing Company of Rutland devoted their space to a showing of winter clothing and furnishings including fur goods. Bailey's Music Rooms of Burlington showed several upright pianos while in the next booth was an exhibition of Starples tubular cream separators. A large number of stoves and ranges and also a patent fuel-saving grate were shown by the Summit Manufacturing Company of Troy and Geneva, NY.

On the second floor M. Steinert & Sons showed some fine specimens of their stock of pianos and talking machines. A beautiful and interesting exhibition of Oriental goods was shown by George Haddad and brother of this city. It included Turkish embroidery and silk shawls, Oriental sofa pillow covers and centerpieces, Damascus hammered brass ware and French embroidery. Aristotle Ambrosini of the Rutland Art School exhibited a number of drawings in wash and pencil. By no means least of the exhibits is the manual training display including many specimens of wood carvings, turning, cabinet making and beaten metal.

The Stoddard Manufacturing Company of this city had their building packed with dairy machinery and supplies. "The silo" nearby was a very interesting place for anyone connected with the great dairy industry. G. H. Grimm & Co. of this city showed many different types of apparatus used in the manufacture of maple syrup and sugar. W. E. Patch of this city presided over an interesting exhibition of concrete building blocks. Concrete as a building material has come to be recognized as one of the cheapest and best obtainable. Large factories and other buildings constructed of this material are now a common sight in nearly all of our larger cities. Mr. Patch first introduced this new building material into Rutland last March and its sale, he says, has steadily increased since then.

The midway, without which no fair would be complete, stretched from the entrance to the stables. As midways go it wasn't very exciting, but it did furnish its share of amusement. The highest kind of a moral tone prevailed. The superintendent of midways had chased off the grounds a show called the "Coney Island Girls" because their performance did not coincide with the Comstockian theory of ethics. They had come here from Fair Haven the day before opening. Thus all the other shows lined up on this grass grown abode of hilarity profited by the sad fate of the "Coney Island" damsels and preserved a chaste and almost saddened front. Even the shell game men were careful not to use double negatives and presented their alluring invitations to play in the best English possible.

Racing was, of course, the feature of the day. The cattle race was protested and will be run over again. The Fish brothers of Clarendon and Harold Spafford of the same place made the three entries. The brothers claim that a heifer, driven by Spafford, broke in the stretch and won on the run. As it was supposed to be a trotting race, their protest was upheld by the judges and all who wish to see the funniest and most unusual thing of their lives should be on hand to see the race when the event comes off the second time. Most interesting of the races was when old Charlie Taylor, the 100 year-old veteran, drove Robert B. an exhibition half mile in 1.07.

With over 5000 people attending, the Street Railway was obliged to run extra cars to accommodate the crowds. An unusually large number of county people attended and their carriages and automobiles packed the space reserved for their accommodation.

[Wonder where all the "fun" has gone!]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Many of us are very familiar with the type of band music played during football games, parades and public/political gatherings. Not too many can identify the composers of a lot of these marches. One of the most famous, John Philip Sousa, was quoted in an article in the newspaper that I thought was so interesting that I should share it with you readers.

John Philip Sousa (1854-1932), composer and bandleader, was called the "March King" because of the many stirring marches he composed. Born in Washington, D.C., he was a violin soloist at the age of 11. Later he conducted various orchestras and was appointed leader of the Marine Corps Band in 1880. In 1892 he started his own band, which became world-famous. He wrote books, many songs and light operas. The "Stars and Stripes Forever", "High School Cadets", "Liberty Bell", "Semper Fidelis" and "Washington Post" are among his most famous marches.

Rutland Weekly Herald, September 20, 1906

Sousa, the American composer of popular airs, in a recent magazine article objects to the prevalence of music reproducing machines. His complaint is based on the ground that the composer is thus robbed of his rights, and that the knowledge that the music can be obtained without labor or practice, tends to do away with patient, earnest toil on the part of the student of music and he predicts that it will only be a question of time when such students will entirely disappear. The mother, instead of lulling the child to sleep with cradle songs, will turn on the phonograph and go off to the reception or lecture. Opera houses will be filled with people listening to machine music rendered by living and dead prima donnas, twanging horns will render the patriotic songs around the campfire and tin-pan intonations of cheap music machines will supplant brass bands in leading our troops to battle.

[the article continues with added comments by the writer]

That would indeed be a sad outcome of the present desire for "canned" music. There is much that is crude, harsh and unpleasant to the musical ear in the music-reproducing machines, but that is true of every first effort in the field of invention and will be remedied in time. It is also unquestionable that the phonograph is serving a purpose in making the people acquainted more generally with the compositions of the great masters as well as setting the whole nation singing popular airs. If the love of art is in the soul, the amateur musician will not be satisfied with merely hearing, he will insist upon ability to execute what he hears and to improve upon it. There are thousands of homes which have been gladdened and made more attractive to the inmates because of the introduction of such instruments, where without them no note of music of any kind would ever have been heard.

Can you imagine what Sousa would think of all the types of reproductions that are now available? What would he think of all the "new" types of music that are being recorded. Here he was, objecting to the "birth" of a music reproducing machine robbing the composer of his rights. How many times have we heard that even today!

John Philip Sousa and his band visited Rutland and Proctor on many occasions. On one such occasion in 1910, he is pictured target practicing at the Rutland Gun Club.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

From an Editorial

Rutland Weekly Herald, September 6, 1906

The House of Proctor and the City of Rutland

The Proctor Republican papers have made the charge that Mr. Clement was moved by spite to run for governor against Proctor. We haven't paid any attention to it, being only too pleased that they should consider such boyish stuff good campaign material. We refer to it now in order to state the attitude of the people of Rutland toward an influence which has prevented Rutland from being a city of over 20,000 people.

For 20 years Rutland has had to defend itself against attacks of the most dangerous and subtle nature. It matters little how the Proctor enmity to Rutland began. We recall nothing of consequence unless it was the fact that Rutland failed to send Proctor delegates to the Republican state convention that nominated him in 1878. But it was not until 1886 that our people took alarm. In the most ruthless way the old town of Rutland was cut up into three towns,--Rutland, West Rutland and Proctor.

In 1890 there was some talk of a city charter and this came to the surface in the Clement-Moloney fight for the legislature. Local option and high license was the leading issue in that fight in consequence of the break of the HERALD away from prohibition as an article of Republican faith. The prohibitionists, which were a part of the fast-developing machine, held the balance of power and sent Moloney to the legislature by their work. Of course neither high license nor the project for a city charter got any aid from the Rutland member at that session.

In 1892 the sentiment in favor of a city was more pronounced and after a two days' struggle in town meetings Mr. Clement was elected representative. A city charter followed in due course. In fixing the boundary lines of the new city and the new town, the Proctor influences were felt in making the city as small as possible.

It had been apparent all along that another assault on Rutland was maturing. The storm broke in 1894 in the shape of a bill to set Center Rutland, including the cemetery, into the town of Rutland, thus robbing the city of thousands of dollars of taxable property and a large and thriving community. Prior to this there had been a stiff struggle between the Vermont Marble Company and the Rutland assessors over the appraisal of its property in Center Rutland and the Proctors were determined to carve up Rutland some more. The fight over the bill to set off Center Rutland culminated in the Senate where Frank D. White of this city led the opposition to the measure. The parliamentary struggle in that body will long be remembered. Senator White finally reached a position where he could talk the bill to death, and the Proctors finally compromised. Rutland City saved the cemetery, but lost a slice on its western border.

During one of these assaults on Rutland, Proctor once said: "Mark my words; you will wake up some morning and find yourself paying taxes in Proctor." It is an easy guess whom he was addressing. Mr. Clement lives in Ward 10 which is in Center Rutland.

This fight against Proctor from a local standpoint, is one of self-defense. Little by little Proctor gets a slash at Rutland and Mr. Clement has happened to be the man in a position to parry the strokes.

Rutland has long wanted a Federal building; but Proctor says the appropriations will not permit it. Burlington can have one; so can St. Albans and Montpelier and Barre and Newport,--but Rutland, never, so long as the house of Proctor rules.

Have you always wondered how the division of Rutland came about? Now you have a good idea!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, September 13, 1926

ATTENDANCE AT FAIR PASSES 100,000 MARK

Fete of 1926 Comes to End With Thrilling Automobile Races

Louis Disbrow lowered the track record for motor vehicles by two and one-fifth seconds for two miles during the automobile races which closed the Rutland Fair Saturday. A card of five events furnished an exciting two hours for over 10,000 persons. The big crowd in the grandstand was on its feet at every finish. Disbrow drove a Peugeot in some of the races and two events in a Hudson Special. Ed Daily of Orlando, Fla. took one race in an Apperson and Cleo Searles of Lorrimore, Ind. drove his Fronty Ford to victory in another.

The record last-day attendance Saturday brought the paid admissions for the six days to well over 75,000, President Will L. Davis stated. It is conservatively estimated that the number of persons actually on the grounds was over 100,000.

Seven different makes of automobiles were seen in the races. Besides those mentioned above, Jack Johnson of Kansas City drove a Wisconsin Special; Dewey Shank of Chicago a Fiat and Frank Hess of Joliet, Ill, a Hess Special.

Daily, Searles, Disbrow and Hess participated in the initial race. Hess had trouble and was out of the running early. Disbrow quit at the end of the fourth lap. Dailey and Searles had an exciting finish with the Apperson a winner. The Ford, however, gave a good account of itself. The time was 3.13 1/2 for the five laps, two and a half miles.

The second race was a seven-lap scorcher. Disbrow, Shank, Daily and Johnson got off to a good start but Daily was unable to finish and Disbrow won after the cars had passed the grandstand well bunched on each occasion around the half-mile track. The time of the three and a half miles was 4.42.

As a variant to the program, the motorists put on an Australian pursuit event as the third race. Disbrow, Searles, Daily and Hess entered. Under the rules in this race, which was a handicap affair, a car dropped out as soon as it was passed and Hess was distanced on the third lap. Great speed was developed in this attraction, the cars sometimes going better than a mile a minute in the stretches, although, because of the dense clouds of dust, it was necessary to slow down greatly on the turns. The finish was in doubt until the racers approached the grandstand for the sixth and final lap when the Hudson Special passed the others. The three miles were made in 3.48.

The final racing event of the afternoon was a handicap for a purse of \$600, divided 50,30 and 20 per cent. There were five entrants, Johnson, Daily, Searles, Hess and Disbrow. While all of the cars made fast time the little Ford got all the glory in this race. Losing half a lap because of the

necessity to stop and make repairs, it showed an astonishing burst of speed and passed all contestants on the ninth lap, winning the first money as the crowd roared. Daily got second money and Johnson third. The time was 6.05 for four and a half miles.

A program of prime vaudeville was interspersed between the races and it was repeated in the evening before another big crowd when fireworks ushered out the Rutland Fair of 1926.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, September 13, 1926

EX-COLLEGIANS FORM FOOTBALL ELEVEN HERE

Have Seven-Game Schedule Arranged; to Play at St. Peter's Field

A football team composed of ex-college men is being organized in this city under the management of R. Bove and already has a tentative schedule with some strong elevens from Vermont and Massachusetts towns. The games will be played on Sundays on St. Peter's gridiron. A number of the Rutland men who will participate have made good records in their schooldays and it is believed that they will be able to put on a good brand of football.

Those who are candidates for the team are: G. Franzoni, Rutland High School; John Lanzillo, Exeter; Mylott, Cioffi, J. Cannon, St. Peters; Joseph Tarpey, A. Sullivan, Robert Thompson, University of Vermont; Robert Bove, Syracuse University; Spero, New York University; Whitcomb, Norwich; Shift, St. Lawrence; LaCasse, U. S. Marines. The officials for the games will be John E. Barrett, "Mike" Hayden and Frank Rice. James Hanley has been elected captain.

The tentative schedule is: September 25, Fort Ethan Allen, here; October 2, Bennington, here; October 10, Winooski, here; October 17, All-Adams, here; October 24, Holyoke at Holyoke; October 31, North Adams, here; November 11, open; November 21, Westfield, Mass, here; Thanksgiving, open.

Apparently the schedule changed as no mention of the team could be found until the Rutland Herald of October 4, 1926.

RUTLAND PROS. LOSE TO WHITEHALL, 9-0

Locals' Line Impregnable But Forward Pass Is Ground Gainer

The Rutland Professionals lost a hard-fought football game to Whitehall, N.Y. at St. Peter's field yesterday afternoon, the score being 9 to 0. Both elevens put up a scrappy defense. The local line, composed of Whitcomb, Leahey, Franzoni and Congdon, proved a stone wall to the visitors, the combination stopping play after play.

Whitehall was able to advance the ball only by using the forward pass. Mike LaCass, former Navy star, did the tossing and St. Lawrence the receiving.

Whitehall scored in the first quarter on a beautiful 41-yard drop kick by Murphy. In the second period a Rutland fumble gave the visitors the ball on their 25-yard line and by successful passing the New York staters scored a touchdown. Murphy kicked the goal.

The second half was scoreless and Rutland clearly outplayed her opponents but fumbles at inopportune moments prevented scores.

The line-up was:

Rutland

Taylor, LE
Franzoni, LT
Leahey, LG
Whitcomb, C
Bove, RG
Congdon, RT
Ryan, RE
MacDonald, RHB
Pillon, LHB
Sullivan, QB
Burke, FB

Whitehall

Renoice, LE
Herbert, LT
Scism, LG
Gilligan, C
Whalen, RG
LaFountain, RT
Waters, RE
Rondo, RHB
Inglee, LHB
Murphy, QB
LaCass, FB

Officials: Umpire, F. Rice; Referee, Stafford, Head Linesman, Purdy; Attendance, 705.

Fort Ethan Allen will play the locals here next Sunday.

I did not look further, but it would be interesting to hear from anyone who remembers the Rutland Pros.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Historical Society is often thought of as a place where people are very serious and business-like! Not so. They take their duties of preserving materials seriously, but many times the materials received can create some "fun" times. One such piece came with some letters and other documents received by a family during WWII. ENJOY!

"The following sentences were taken from actual letters received from wives, fathers, and dependents of men who are in the armed forces, who were either making or correcting applications for allotments.

1. When will I get my relief? I am a poor woman and all I have has gone to the front.
2. Mr. Headquarters: My husband was induced into the surface long months ago. I ain't had no pay since he went----or before either.
3. U. S. Armory: Please send me my elopment, as I have a four months old baby, and he is my only support I need all I can get to buy food every day and keep him inclose.
4. Both sides of my parents is old and I can't suspect anything from them as my mother has been in bed thirteen years with the same doctor and won't change.
5. Please tell me if my husband has made application for a wife and baby. He is in charge of a spittoon and you can find him in the Y.M.C.A. with the piano playing in his uniform.
6. Please send me a wife's form to fill out, and find out for certain if my husband is dead as the man I am living with now wont eat or do nothing till he nose for sure.
7. I have already wrote to the President and I don't hear from him. If you don't write soon, I will write Uncle Sam about you both.
8. I have already had no clothing for a year and have been regularly visited by the clergy.
9. This is my eighth child. What are you going to do about it?
10. I can't get my pay. I got six children. Can you tell me what this is?
11. Sir: I am forwarding my marraing certificate and my two children. One is a mistake as you can see.
12. I am annoyed to find that you branded my children as illiterate. Oh, the shame. It is a dirty lie as I married their father a week before the first boy was born.
13. I am writing to say that my baby was born two years ago and is two years old.

14. In answer to your letter, I gave birth to a boy weighing 10 lbs. I hope this is satisfactory.

15. I have no children as my husband is a truck driver and works night and day.

16. You have changed my little girl to a boy. Does this make any difference?

17. In accordance to instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope.

Then there was the time when the committee was sorting through some old advertising material when an out-of-state couple knocked at the door. As they were looking through some research material, some of us began to laugh at some of the cards. Their comment was "We didn't know historical societies were supposed to have so much fun." We do.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Community Club Bulletin, October 1947

“FREEDOM TRAIN ROLLS

A pilgrimage to reaffirm America's faith in free men.

The longest railroad trip in history begins in Philadelphia on September 17, 1947, when the Freedom Train, moving symbol of the American Heritage Program, starts its tour of over 33,000 miles visiting 300 communities (Rutland on October 13th).

A red, white and blue Diesel-electric Locomotive donated by the American Locomotive and General Electric Companies dedicated “The Spirit of ‘76,” with waters from the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans, the Great Lakes, the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi and Potomac Rivers, will haul its cargo of over 100 priceless historical documents--including a thirteenth century copy of Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights and Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation--so that for the first time Americans will be able to see them all in one place at one time.

The tour of the train, expected to last a year, is being financed by the American Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization representing business, labor, religious, educational and community organizations.

The train will be under constant surveillance by 28 Marines, veterans of Pacific Island warfare, and all average more than six feet in height.

Objectives: more active participation by citizens in the process of democracy; an increased awareness of our individual rights; an augmented pride in our past; wider recognition of our obligations to the world to maintain our free institutions and to be a living example of them.

Without faith in the individual you cannot have millions of free, education, resourceful, independent, self-reliant men and women. Our faith comes first and is our most important asset.

We urge every member to visit the Freedom Train on October 13th and see the documents so important to every American citizen.”

Now in 2006 we have “All Aboard Rutland” to commemorate the City of Rutland as a railroad center of the past. A great community getting together to augment pride in our past.

[Of special note. Community Club had a membership of 252 for 1946-47. With the multiple activities taking place today, clubs are becoming a thing of the past.]

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 15, 1926

SLATE WAS FIRST USED TO ROOF BUILDING IN 1840 THUS STARTING GREAT INDUSTRY

Jefferson Barnes Adopted Stone Covering for His House in Fair Haven Despite Ridicule of Townspeople and Now Material Is in Demand All Over World

Long before 1839, which was the year the first quarry opened, a small quantity of slate had been taken from the ledges for the purpose of making memorials. Commercially speaking, the stone was unimportant. It is easy to account for slate being used for headstones as the greater number of the stones were made by men who had little or no experience in stone cutting and who were unable to cope with the harder marble and granite. The fact that many of the monuments have stood for nearly a century and a half and that today the inscriptions are clear and distinct give a good idea of the weathering qualities of slate.

In the early days, slates were used almost entirely in the schools of Vermont as well as other states as a primary writing base. Later, paper became cheap enough to supplant the unsanitary and unsightly boards. Two Fair Haven men opened a quarry to supply the demand for school slates. Due to their farsightedness, Col. Alanson Allen and Caleb B. Ranney are perhaps responsible for the great stone industry in this section of Vermont. They opened a quarry on Col. Allen's farm, which is today in the heart of one of the greatest slate producing belts of America. Previous to this time slates used in American schools had been produced in Pennsylvania or imported from Germany. This quarry did not prove to be the great success its promoters had hoped and it was soon abandoned as the stone was found to be too hard. The crude machinery of that time was not fitted to handle the rock. Although the quarry opened by Allen and Ranney did not succeed, it paved the way for another industry in this valuable stone.

A quarry was opened to produce roofing slate and in 1840 this material was first applied to a building in Fair Haven. The barn belonged to Jefferson Barnes and his neighbors and friends considered him half-insane to try out this "new fangled" notion. They predicted all sorts of dire calamities for the pioneer user of the novel roof-covering. There were prophecies that the great weight would crash the timbers of the roof. Others warned that lightning would be attracted by the slates.

How the predictions were fulfilled is shown by the fact that there is not a building to be seen in the village of Fair Haven the roof of which is not covered with the indestructible stone which the town produces. Many structures in the town are covered with the stone which was quarried by the pioneer in this business who did more for the industry and the general welfare of the town than any other single man.

Now, look around as you travel the roads and see how many houses in the city and countryside have slate roofs. One has to wonder if the newer metal roofing can last as long as slate!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, March 18, 1926

MENDON SUMMER COLONY GROWS APACE

Dr. Samuel Hubbard, formerly of Rutland and now of Hackensack, NJ, has secured a portion of the Ruben Ranger farm in Mendon and will build a large summer home there as soon as weather conditions permit. This will be located about one mile from Mendon Village on the Woodstock road.

Mendon is rapidly assuming an important place as a summer resort, the high elevation and wide views inducing many to establish homes in this section. While there are no large lakes in the immediate vicinity it is an easy drive to several large bodies of water. Within easy hiking distance of several of the highest mountains of the state, this locality offers many attractions to the mountain lover. One feature of this section is the abundance of springs and the ease with which a water supply may be secured.

The improvement on the Rutland Woodstock Road over the mountain is in a great measure responsible for the popularity of this section. This highway makes the locality easily accessible from White River Junction or Rutland.

The following people have secured camp sites and contemplate building or have already established summer homes on the mountain road: Raymond C. Bridges, Charles W. Corliss, G. B. Waite, George W. Hascall, William Farrell, Esme A. C. Smith, Dr. Earl E. Johnson and Mrs. Martin Howard of Woodstock who has already established two camps.

Other real estate transfers have been made, the following persons having acquired property in this locality: J. Marsh Spafford, Joseph C. Jones, Seymour Billings, George Silver, Mrs. Ethel Field, Col. J. E. Woodward, Dr. G. G. Marshall, Ralph V. Reynolds, Mrs. Mertie Howard and Mrs. Martha Bucklin.

The popularity of the mountain road and vicinity as a location for summer homes has led to the establishment of a number of tea-rooms, one of these occupying the highest point of land on the highway. The Green Mountain Clubhouse has been renamed The Long Trail Inn and is a stopping place on the long stretch of mountain road. At this point the Long Trail, which covers many miles of the Green Mountains, crosses the highway, about eight miles from Rutland.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, April 3, 1926

INVITE PRESIDENT TO USE JOHNSON CASTLE

Palatial Residence on West Proctor Road Offered as Summer "White House"

"Rutland Manor," the most magnificent country estate in southern Vermont, sometimes known as the "Johnson Castle" and by some as "Johnson's Folly," a palatial residence set in the midst of a tract of 140 acres on the West Proctor Road about two and a half miles from Rutland, has been offered to President Calvin Coolidge for use as a summer "White House" by its present owner, I. W. Shapiro of Boston, through his agent, Fred A. Field, Sr., Rutland. Mr. Field has sent a letter to the president offering the estate for his use this summer and is awaiting a reply.

[I wonder if the offer was accepted!]

President Coolidge is not the first chief executive to whom this estate has been offered for use as a summer "White House," for it was placed at the disposal of the late Woodrow Wilson, during his presidency, but rejected in favor of "Shadow Lawn."

The tract of 140 acres which comprises the estate is made up of 25 acres of tillable land, located at a high altitude and commanding an excellent view of Mount Killington and Mount Pico.

The palatial residence itself is constructed of red brick with marble trim. It contains 24 rooms and a number of baths, fitted with modern plumbing fixtures. It is a three-story building, approximately 65 by 105 feet. The water supply is furnished by a 15,000 gallon spring reservoir located in the rear of the manor house proper. Heat is supplied by a large furnace in the cellar. The building is lighted by a gas plant separate and apart from the house with a capacity of 400 lights.

There are a large number of out-buildings on the estate all of brick and marble construction including a two-story carriage house, a two-story garage, a two-story horsestable, a two-story brood mare stable, a two-story stallion stable, a two-story French cow stable and a two-story English cow stable.

In addition there are two cottages originally designed for the accommodation of farm help, a large frame hay barn with a capacity of several hundred tons and a complete plant for the making of maple syrup and sugar, besides chicken houses, a structure for the housing of foxes and an apiary.

This estate has had three owners, excluding the present one, since the house was built for Dr. John Johnson of New York City in the '70's. [All available information indicates that it was constructed in 1885] at an approximate cost of \$300,000. George Gibson of Rutland was the

contractor in charge of construction and it took about a year and a half or two years to complete the structure [June 9, 1886]. Many of the furnishings were imported from Europe. The estate was laid out as a stock farm. Much of the stock, such as Jersey cattle, was brought to this country from its original habitat.

After occupying the house for several years, Dr. Johnson, as a result of a family disagreement was enjoined from spending any further funds for the operation and maintenance of the estate. He sold the property and moved away. The names Wm. H.[John's brother?] and Sarah A. Johnson are listed as owners of the property. The property was then sold to an artist, Belle B. Cummings from Philadelphia in 1900. George K. Cummings in turn transferred the property to a Mr. W. H. Barnard of New York in 1913 and it was from him that the present owner acquired the property. In 1918 the Canute Realty Trust Co.[apparently owned by I.W. Shapiro of Boston] purchased the property. and in 1928 Clarence Lewis is listed as the owner. The property was vacant for many years and in 1940 was purchased by the Elie interests from Mr. Lewis for \$20,000.

Rutland Herald, June 20, 1940 & September 1941

The Elie Academy of Beauty Culture was to be co-educational and the only resident school of cosmetology in the country. Elie Goumillout, principal stated that courses would include physical education, diction, current events, art appreciation and manners. This apparently lasted only about one year, as the "castle" passed into the possession of Herbert L. Wilson of New York in September of 1941. Wilson wanted the property for a summer home.

Rutland Herald, May 1962

By May of 1962 the "Castle" was open to the public and had attracted visitors from Scotland, Canada, Hawaii and many other states.

Today, "Wilson Castle" is still a main attraction in the area, visited by many travelers.

Tidbits From Then and Now

From A 1920 political flyer

To the Women Voters of Vermont:

It has developed that there are some of the state's new voters who are under the impression that it is necessary for them to pay a tax, poll or otherwise, before they can participate in the November elections.

There is no tax payment qualification of the right to vote at a general election. Nor is there, in such voting, any implied promise to pay a tax in the future.

Thousands of women voted at the September primaries and they did not have to pay any tax. The same law which controls the primaries controls the November election, so far as this point is concerned. Therefore, let all women remember these important facts:

- 1. The fact that you have or have not paid a tax this year has nothing whatever to do with your right to vote at the general election November 2, 1920.*
- 2. The fact of having your name placed on a check list as a voter and your voting does not make you a tax payer, or make you liable to a poll tax, or bind you to pay any kind of a tax.*

REGISTRATION

One thing that is necessary, however, for an eligible woman to do before she can vote for presidential, state, county and legislative candidates next November. She must see that her name is on the check list.

The check list controls the voting and only those whose names are found on the list by the ballot clerks, can obtain ballots and admission to the booth. Therefore, women must see to it that they are properly registered.

Thousands of women registered for the primaries. They do not have to bother about it again, although it is always wise to see that by no clerical mistake one's name has been left off.

Those who did not register for the primaries should do so for the November election, for it is important that the women make use of their newly granted right of the suffrage.

If you have not registered and you are 21 years old or over and are an American citizen you have a right to have your name placed on the list. Boards of civil authority all over the state hold meetings for such purposes and your city or town clerk can give you information as to the date of such meetings.

You will have to appear personally and swear to the Freeman's Oath, which is required of all voters in Vermont and which reads as follows:

"You solemnly swear (or affirm) that whenever you give your vote or suffrage, touching any matter that concerns the State of Vermont, you will do so as in your conscience you shall judge will most conduce to the best good of the same, as established by the Constitution, without fear or favor of any man".

Do they still swear to the Freeman's Oath when registering to vote? Oh yes! The age of 18 has been the legal age to vote for some time now.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herolds, June 1926 & 1965 & History of Bird's Mountain Monument

BIRD MOUNTAIN NAMED FOR COLONEL BIRD, HARDY PIONEER

Bird Mountain derives its name from Colonel Amos Bird of Salisbury CT. He and Colonel Noah Lee were the first settlers of Castleton. They traveled from Salisbury through Bennington to Manchester. From there it was all wilderness, to be travelled by marked trees until they came to Clarendon. They reached Clarendon and then Rutland where they struck out on the old military road leading from Charlestown, NH to Crown Point, NY, then to Ticonderoga. At Ticonderoga they replenished their stock of provisions and proceeded by way of Whitehall, then called Skeenesboro, and arrived at Castleton in June 1767.

The summer of that year they spent in the arduous labor of surveying the township, preparing it from a surveyor's standpoint to receive the first settlers of the town of Castleton. It was while thus engaged that Colonel Bird became separated from his comrade Lee. He lost his way in the dense wilderness and was obliged to pass the night on the summit of a precipitous mountain, a circumstance which endowed it with its present name, Bird Mountain. One year later, Colonel Bird returned to Castleton and built his house on the bank of the Castleton River.

As a result of Masonic co-operation in 1886, a masonic mounment was erected on Bird Mountain. The monument was built of brick and stone blocks, laid in cement and mortar. They were contributed by individual Masons, with their own names, number of lodge and various Masonic emblems. Each individual carried his brick up the mountain to be placed in the mounment.

A part of Bird Mountain is a mass of bald rock, jutting out and forming a precipice. This by no means hinders any approach to the mountain and much of the way can be made in horse and buggy or even a Ford. There is, however, a stretch that must be hiked by foot. There are two roads for access to Bird Mountain. The east road is situated on the Rutland/Castleton road through the fields and pasture of "Jack" Ryan [in 1887], to the foot of the cliffs where the carriage road ends.. The ascent is rugged and slow for a time, but this was the old route to the summit and was opened wider to transport the materials for building the mounment. The west road, situated on the Rutland/Castleton road goes through the fields and pasture of Mr. Pond [in 1887]. The ascent is quite easy up to "The Notch" where the two paths join and follow the ridge to the summit. [Should be great for hikers if they don't already know these paths exist!]

The Masonic monument on Bird Mountain was later destroyed by lightning and the bricks so laboriously erected were scattered in great confusion. In 1917 Lee Lodge erected a temple and the fireplace was completed with bricks from the monument that were found at that time. [Word has it that some bricks still remain to be found in the area].

During the 1960s, Bird Mountain was developed for skiing and became known as Birdseye Mountain Ski Area. The area had nice easy slopes for children and other beginners and a polypropylene rope tow. There were six open slopes of various heights and a trail system

serviced by a Stabil Disc Lift with a capacity of 800 skiers per hour. Snow making equipment was available if Old Man Winter should fall down on the job. However these ski trails stayed open only a few years due to lack of snow.

Now in the year 2006 a great deal of anticipation is felt as the area has a new owner who is talking about plans for developing a recreation area to be enjoyed by all.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 14, 1927

KELLEY FIELD TO BE EMERGENCY AIRPORT

Kelley Field on the west side of South Main Street, about a mile south of the city, is to be used as an emergency airport and it is expected that the tract will be ready by tomorrow should occasion arise for any aircraft descending here.

The field was purchased yesterday from Mrs. Honora Kelley by Frank M. Wilson of East Center Street, who immediately extended to the city the privilege of using the field. Mr. Wilson also will permit the city to take possession of a meadow adjoining the Kelley lot on the south, which he previously owned.

The arrangements for putting the field in condition to be used for landing airplanes in connection with flood relief work were made by the aviation committee of the Chamber of Commerce which comprised of George W. Peck, III, Charles H. West and Charles A. Matthews, acting with Fred A. Field, Jr., president of the chamber.

A powerful searchlight has been placed at the disposal of the committee by W. H. Lawson, general manager of the Vermont Hydro-Electric Corporation and this will be set up on the flying field for use on notification.

November 15, 1927

A telegram of congratulations on the opening of an emergency landing field by the Rutland Chamber of Commerce was received by President Fred A. Field, Jr., yesterday afternoon from John F. O'Ryan of the Colonial Air Transportation Company of New York. Mr. O'Ryan was one of a number of air transport officials, army officers and government aeronautics men notified by telegram of the existence of the Rutland field.

The work of marking out the 100-foot circle at Kelly Field with marble dust and laying out the two landing lanes, east and west, and north and south, was accomplished yesterday. Wind cones to show the direction of the air currents are in place and the field is ready for emergency landing today.

November 17, 1927

A big DeHaviland army plane, one of the largest in the regular army lines of flying craft, landed without a hitch yesterday morning while on a tour of inspection from Fort Ethan Allen and took off again after the aviators had assured the Chamber of Commerce officials, who were there to greet them, that the Rutland Farms field was one of the best in this section of the country.

The aviators were reminded that Rutland's location in a sheltered valley makes the possibility of deep snow remote through a large part of the winter and that the field might be of considerable value as an emergency port for planes fleeing from snow squalls among the mountains. A slight fall of snow they said, would make no difference to the larger planes.

Charles A. Matthews of the Chamber Aviation Committee, expressed himself as more than pleased with the report of the first airplane to visit the port. "We had expected criticism and were unprepared for such ready approval." If Rutland's field is established as a permanent port next summer, Mr. Matthews said, the army men have promised the presence of army planes at a formal opening.

[For a younger generation that is unaware that this airport existed, it was established following the flood of 1927. It was located where the Green Mountain Shopping Plaza is located today]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, October 14, 1927

REMODELING OF BANK TO BEGIN AT ONCE

The work of remodeling the Rutland Savings Bank building will start next Monday. Harold Jewett Cook, Buffalo architect will supervise the reconstruction. Henry O. Carpenter, president of the bank said that the plans are drawn, specifications are being made and contracts for the work will be let in the near future.

When the work is completed the aspect of the building at the southeast corner of Merchants Row and Center Street, for years a familiar landmark in Rutland, will be completely altered. The rooms occupied by the bank will be extended to include the store space on Merchants Row, vacated by Presto Lunch. The exterior of the first floor will be revamped, more windows added and the outside wall faced with antique marble. The cornice at the top of the third story will be removed and the wall built up to present a solid front. Chimneys on the roof will be removed and the stairway leading to the upper floors changed.

The space taken up by the bank will be approximately doubled in the expansion and the entire interior done over. A partition between the present banking rooms and the newly acquired space will be removed and the whole made into a single room. The tellers' counter will be built in the shape of a horseshoe, increasing the working space for employers and the space for the lobby floor. The bank entrance will remain the same.

The wainscotting of the interior will be rose marble and the counter will be faced with black and gold marble. Doors and grill work will be bronze. Standing desks, consultation rooms, booths and a women's alcove will be built along the sides of the lobby.

The present vault will be removed and a larger and more modern one constructed at the rear of the added space. Locker rooms for employees will be built in the rear. Executive offices and the directors' meeting room will occupy the area at the rear of the present bank space. Standing desks, card files and machines will be located in the center of the horseshoe counter. The floor of the lobby will be of rubber tile and the ceiling will be sheathed with a special sound absorbing material.

The Rutland Savings Bank was organized in 1850. The present quarters were secured about 40 years ago and have long since been outgrown, Mr. Carpenter said. The purchase of the added space from Fred S. Chafee, included the entire south half of the building. The rooms on the second floor formerly occupied by a pool room run by Welford H. Handley will be remodeled for business offices. A stairway from the street will be built at the southwest corner of the building, adjoining the Herald building. From the top of the stairs a hallway will lead to the Elks' lodge rooms and offices in the north half of the building.

Many years ago the portion of the first floor now occupied by the bank housed the Pond & Morse drug store and later a drug store operated by Frank H. Chapman. The south half was utilized by Nichols & Barney as a clothing store for a number of years before being leased as a restaurant.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 5, 1927

WEST RUTLAND LIME PLANT IS PROBABLY LARGEST IN COUNTRY

One of the important side lines of the marble industry being carried on extensively in West Rutland is the manufacture of lime by the Vermont Marble Company. This plant is probably the largest and one of the best equipped in the country, having a capacity of about 750 tons of lime a day. The lime industry is comparatively new in this section. There are several old plants dating back several generations in the surrounding country, but not until recent years has the demand for this product been such that it could be a profitable industry to conduct on a large scale.

The machinery and furnaces, or kilns as they are called, are huge affairs costing many thousands of dollars to install and operate. The building that houses the plant must be weather proof, as moisture will spoil the rock in process of manufacture. The plant is housed in a modern steel building well lighted and ventilated, being remarkably free from dust while carrying on a business that produces the finest powdered dust. The marble that goes to the lime plant has practically no other value. It is inferior grades and broken pieces unfit for monumental or building use. Pieces too large to handle easily in the huge jaw crusher, the first step of the stone through the plant, are broken by men with sledges to chunks that will fit the machine.

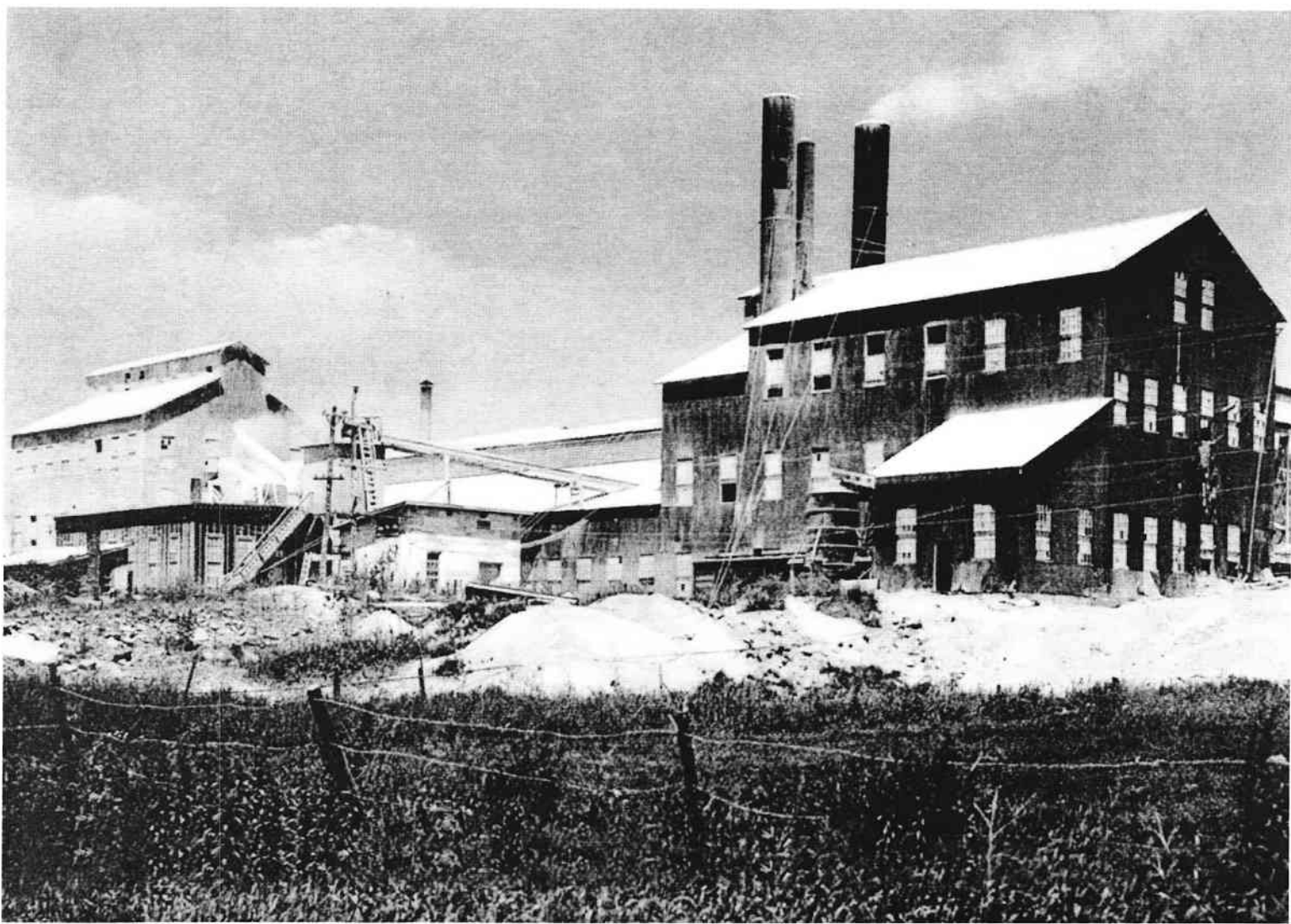
Once started in the crusher, machinery does the rest. It is broken by a series of crushers, each reducing the size of the stones by half or more until finally it passes through a series of rollers and emerges in powder form. Then it is ready to burn and is carried to large rotary kilns where at a temperature of 1650 degrees it is revolved rapidly for some time to entirely burn the rock from the lime after which it is ready for the storage bins and market.

Two grades of this product are made at the plant. Building lime, which is the best grade, is bagged and sold for plastering and building purposes. The remainder is used for agricultural lime to correct the acidity of the soil. Twenty-five men are presently employed at the plant. New equipment is being added to the plant and it is expected that an excellent season will follow. A large part of the business in agricultural lime is done with farmers in the surrounding territory.

The application of this product on most soils and for most crops is recommended to increase the yield and improve the quality. Lime decomposes potash compounds and assists in the conversion of organic matter, aiding the desirable fermentation process. By forming compounds with various chemicals necessary for plant growth it prevents their loss by leeching or filtering especially on sandy soil in which it aids in retaining moisture. Used on clay soil it forms pores making nitrification through colonies of bacteria and it prevents the growth of injurious bacteria.

Because of its great value to farmers lime is used in large quantities, not only in this section, but is shipped in carload lots to many other parts of the country. While the cost is around \$7.00 a ton when shipped, the company has made a low price within the reach of the small farmers, who can

haul it away. Occasionally there is a supply on hand at the plant of a slightly inferior grade that is stored outside in the yard and can be had for a small price.



Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, Wednesday, April 24, 1929

WHOLESALE DRIVE AGAINST PARKING VIOLATORS STARTS

Starting a wholesale drive against violators of the city parking and traffic laws, members of the police department ordered more than 60 motorists into the police station yesterday. The persons whose cars were tagged were warned and notified that a second offense might lead to court action.

Indignant at the continued breaking of the "one-hour parking law," Chief Roy H. Leonard early in the day ordered his officers to make a careful check-up on every street in the business section.

Things began to happen about 1 o'clock. Policeman Charles A. Cassin went out into the street armed with several dozen tags and made a very careful check-up of every car parked in the business section. On his first trip he marked with blue chalk the tire of every car that was parked in the "one-hour zone."

It took him about three-quarters of an hour to do that. Then, after one hour was up, he started back to check the cars he had marked.

When Officer Cassin reported back to police headquarters at 3 o'clock there were 43 tags placed on the windshields of cars parked in the business district notifying their owners to appear at the police station. Every one of the tags had been given for over-time parking. Shortly after 3 o'clock the owners began to pour into police headquarters and were lectured by Chief Leonard and the officers in charge.

Other motorists, apparently "getting wind" of the drastic measures, watched the one hour allowed for parking very carefully during the afternoon and only a few more were hauled in.

In the evening, however, the night policemen were doing wholesale tagging on Wales Street, where the 10-minute parking law is in effect on the west side. Motorists who had parked their cars and were attending theaters were the chief offenders in that district. Before 12 o'clock last night more than 60 autoists had received summons to appear at police headquarters. The drive will continue today.

Following is the list of offenses for which motorists will be answerable: Cars parked within prohibited zone; cars parked within six feet of a hydrant; cars parked over time limit; cars parked more than one foot from the curb; cars parked with left side to curb; cars with headlights out; cars with taillight out; cars with registration plates not properly adjusted; car with registration plates not placed so as to show plainly at night.

Double parking, one of the severest handicaps to traffic in the business district, will be watched carefully. That offense comes under the heading of "cars parked more than one foot from the curb" and is punishable for the first offense.

The first arrest for violation of the parking ordinances came last Monday when Benny Trombetta, local chauffeur, paid a fine for parking his car three hours on Wales Street. Chief Leonard warns that other arrests will be made within the next few days unless "the situation clears up."

Friday, April 26, 1929

Chief Roy H. Leonard issued a statement that many Rutland merchants and employees in the business section are the most persistent violators of the one-hour parking law. Some of the officers found that the employers and workers in the business section drive their cars to their business places and in order to get by the one-hour parking law come out and move them each hour.

The officers started their drive against parking violations on Tuesday. More than 55 motorists answered calls to appear at the police station. On Wednesday about 22 cars were tagged. Nearly all of those receiving tags have answered the summonses. Chief Leonard is keeping a daily record of the cars which were tagged and it is expected that on second violations court action will be taken.

On Wednesday results of the drive against parking law violators began to slow up and there was hardly any time during the day that a parking space could not be found in the business section. The rain, however, had something to do with that situation.

Parking violations in the downtown section have always been a problem for the police department. In this more modern world, we have parking meters and special "ticket givers" who faithfully make the rounds of the district, checking for violators. Just recently the City Treasurer's office has been trying to sort through "mounds" of paperwork identifying violators who have gone beyond their "warnings." Think about the increase in the number of cars and trucks that are in operation since back in 1929!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 11, 1929

RUTLAND HEARS HOLLYWOOD'S LAUGHTER AS "TALKIES" HAVE VERMONT PREMIERE

They came by the hundreds, and hundreds of them were turned away. They came from all parts of the county and from other parts of the state as well. They packed the theater at all four performances and then went away convinced they had seen a "modern miracle."

That was the way Rutland greeted the first talking moving picture program ever shown in Vermont yesterday afternoon and last night at the Strand.

To those who had never seen the "talkies" it was fascinating and at the same time weird. Hundreds who would never think of applauding silent movies pounded their hands together until they were red and sore, convinced that if they applauded enough, the actors and actresses would hear and do their stuff over again. One little boy even went up to T. W. McKay, manager, and asked if he could go backstage and meet "that lady what sang."

Science took a wonderful step when it made it possible for remote communities like Rutland to hear their Hollywood favorites talk and sing, but it has accomplished an even greater wonder in the way it has perfected the invention.

Great credit should go to the men who labored day and night for the past six weeks, installing the \$25,000 equipment in the Strand. There was not the slightest hitch in the opening performance, nor in those that followed. The synchronization of voice and lip movement was perfect. The volume of sound, which is extremely difficult to regulate, was likewise perfect, the operators varying it every time the size of the audience changed materially.

In the Wales Street theater, artistically redecorated for the occasion, sat capacity crowds and heard: first, an overture; second, Conrad Nagel make a long and unusually distinct Vitaphone announcement; third, flashes from the "Lights of New York," with the characters talking; fourth, Winnie Lightner, star of George White's "Scandals," whose tomboyishness and inimitable vitality "set the house on fire"; fifth, Fred Ardath, popular vaudevillian of the Keith circuit in a satire on an inebriate coming home "the morning after;" sixth, the "Crystal Revue," a series of dancing and singing acts that might have come out of any of the big Broadway productions, and seventh, ever-popular William Haines in "Alias Jimmy Valentine." In the feature picture the Vitaphone machinery supplied music and all the effects throughout the majority of the picture. When the climax comes captions are eliminated and "you hear as well as see."

It was a great show--a musical comedy, a first-class vaudeville program, some neat dance acts and then the full-length feature picture, with the characters really seeming to live before your eyes, all in one.

While the crowds jammed the theater, telegrams and telephone calls of congratulation were coming to the management from all parts of the country. Copies of many of the wires from Hollywood celebrities were displayed in the lobby.

Truly the event marked the beginning of a new epoch in Vermont amusement circles.

Just think, it happened right here in Rutland before anywhere else in Vermont!

What a comparison to today's world of TV, Video and DVD. Now you can "see and hear" what you want and when you want in your own home.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, March 29, 1927

FARMER BOY STARTED TIN CAN INDUSTRY

The history of a Rutland industry, L. & J. A. Steward, Inc., which began in Clarendon over 60 years ago when a farmer boy learned the tinsmith trade and has grown until it has a modern factory of its own in Rutland. It operates machinery which was invented in its operation and ships its products internationally.

In 1866, John A. Steward met a traveling tinsmith who taught him how to make tin dippers and other things used on the farms at that time. There was a demand for these only in the summer and to fill in the winter months, the boy gave his attention to sap buckets and other receptacles which were needed in the country. These articles, especially the tin things manufactured, were peddled in carts and Elisha Leffingwell was one of the distributors.

The tin business started by the boy grew and after a few seasons a shop 12 by 24 feet was built in Clarendon. Square maple syrup cans were coming into popularity and these boosted the business. In 1885, the initial shop was out grown and was succeeded by another, two stories high and 24 by 36 feet in size. The slow work of fashioning out the receptacles by hand was speeded up by installing a four-horse power engine.

In 1898 there was a demand for a better method of sealing cans for paint and the Stewards secured machinery which proved successful. A demand in Europe for sealed cans was met. Thus the local concern became a pioneer in the manufacture of this improved type of can. Machinery for the manufacture of the containers rapidly improved until the plant turned out 200 of them a minute.

In 1901, the plant was moved to Rutland where it occupied a site on West Street near the Lincoln Iron Works. A strike made it difficult for the concern to obtain types of machinery which it needed and apparatus was secured to turn out its own machinery. This was a great impetus to other business. There was a further expansion in 1903 when an order came from Maine for a seal-top for sardine cans. Manufacture of other sanitary food cans followed. A factory was erected on Park Street in 1907 and the business steadily grew. Through a Chicago order, a large export trade was secured. Products were then going to Europe and Asia.

The Steward Company made cans for Bakers's Cocoa, shipping a carload a week. It had various lines and the plant was equipped to turn out 240 cans a minute of the ordinary tomato and corn type can.

Another "Made in Vermont" and right here in the Rutland area!

Tidbits From Then and Now

From *Santa Claus Souvenir*, a booklet of poems by Julia C.R. Dorr published by the Tuttle Company in 1882

SANTA CLAUS

A voice from out of the northern sky:--
"On the wings of the limitless winds I fly,
Swifter than thought over mountain and vale,
City and moorland, desert and dale!
From the north to the south, from the east to the west,
I hasten, regardless of slumber or rest;
Oh, nothing you dream of can fly as fast
As I on the wings of the wintry blast!

The wondering stars look out to see
Who he that flyeth so fast may be,
And their bright eyes follow my earthward track
By the gleam of the jewels I bear in my pack.
For I have treasures for high and for low;
Rubies that burn like the sunset glow,
Diamond rays for the crowned queen,
For the princess, pearls with their silver sheen

I enter the castle with noiseless feet;
The air is silent and soft and sweet;
And I lavish my beautiful tokens there,--
Fairings to make the fair more fair!
I enter the cottage of want and woe;
The candle is out and the fire burns low;
But the sleepers smile in a happy dream
As I scatter my gifts by the moon's pale beam.

There's never a home so low, no doubt,
But I in my flight can find it out;
Nor a hut so hidden but I can see
The shadow cast by the lone roof-tree!
There's never a home so proud and high
That I am constrained to pass it by,
Nor a heart so happy it may not be
Happier still when blessed by me!

What is my name? Ah, who can tell,
Though in every land 'tis a magic spell!

Men call me that, and they call me this,
Yet the different names are the same, I wis![know]
Gift-Bearer to all the world am I,
Joy-Giver, Light-Bringer, where'er I fly;
But the name I bear in the courts above,
My truest and holiest name, is---LOVE!"

Julia C.R. Dorr

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 25, 1914

GUSTAVE H. GRIMM DIES AT AGE 54

Gustave Henry Grimm, a pioneer in the manufacture of maple sugar-making apparatus and one of the best known business men of this city died at his home last night. The cause of death was general paralysis, and while those acquainted with his condition had fully recognized that his recovery was impossible, few of his friends realized that his death was impending and the news came to them with the suddenness of a bolt from the blue sky. Rutland loses a man whose inventive genius and ability made him known in many parts of the country. He was a pioneer in the maple sugar evaporator business.

Mr. Grimm was not only a manufacturer of note and widely known throughout New England, but he was also a successful inventor of sugar-making utensils and was identified with several other important business interests in the city. The Grimm Champion evaporator and the Grimm sap spouts were known all over the maple sugar belt, as were many other things he invented.

Mr. Grimm was born in Zuzenhausen, Baden, Germany on March 17, 1860 and came to this country while still a young man. He first located at Hudson, OH and started an evaporator business there. He came to Rutland in 1892 and started his present establishment and contemporaneously started a plant of the same nature in Montreal. The G.H. Grimm plant is the biggest manufacturing plant for maple sugar supplies in the country and probably in the world. The number of men employed at the plant varies, but runs as high as 75 and 100.

Mr. Grimm was a member of Bedford Lodge, F. & A. M. of Hudson, OH, of Killington commandery; Knights Templar of Rutland, and of Vermont Lodge, Knights of Pythias of Rutland. His other business affiliations were as director of the Numerics Company of Rutland, the Rutland Garage Company of Rutland and the Backus Company of Brandon.

Personally, Gus Grimm numbered his friends by the thousands. A frank and cherry manner, a strong handclasp and a capacity for strong and lasting friendship were among the qualities that endeared men to him. To a very large circle of those who loved him well, the announcement of his death, in the very meridian of life, will bring a very poignant and personal sorrow to the whole city on this Christmas morn.

Gustave Grimm was survived by his wife and a daughter Nellie M. Grimm and a brother, F. A. Grimm of Cleveland OH. Nella May Grimm Fox inherited the business from her father and ran it for 37 years.

In the past months, the Hudson Ohio Historical Society has been in contact with the Rutland Historical Society to obtain access to materials for an historic marker to pay tribute to Mr. Grimm and his many achievements.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 20, 1931 [76 years ago!]

That products of Rutland manufactories are nationally advertised and are shipped to all parts of the world was emphasized by George H. Steward, a member of the industrial relations committee of the Rutland Chamber of Commerce.

Rutland City is the "Hub" of Vermont and the foremost city in northern New England and is the home of diversified and nationally known industries.

Rutland is well served by two railroads, the Rutland Railroad and the Delaware & Hudson. These railroads connect Rutland with New York, Boston, Montreal and the West and over them go the products of the industries of Rutland to every corner of the world.

One of the oldest of American industries is the production and finishing of marble for its different uses. The Vermont Marble Company, whose offices are located at Proctor, are building a large marble finishing mill in Center Rutland in which will be placed the most modern finishing machinery. Rutland is fortunate in being selected as the site for this new mill.

The Howe Scale Company is one of the oldest of the manufacturing companies in Rutland. The company manufactures a superior line of railroad, wagon, automobile and industrial scales, "The Everlasting Kind," and a complete line of warehouse trucks.

The sales territory of the Howe Scale Company is very broadly distributed. About 10 percent of the output is exported all over the world with the balance about 50 percent sold east of the west line of the state of Ohio and 50 percent sold west of that line. Only about five percent of the output is sold in New England. At this time the Howe Scale Company has produced the largest scales ever built.

The Lincoln Iron Works was established in 1864 for the purpose of building stone-working machinery. The company builds a full line of marble, limestone and granite sawing and finishing machinery and a line of special machinery. The distribution of the machinery is worldwide. The Lincoln Iron Works has a department devoted to wholesaling plumbing and heating supplies. The territory of sales outside of the state of Vermont covers the bordering sections of the states of New York, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

The Patch-Wegner Company, Inc., builds a general line of stone-working machinery and special machines for cane sugar and paper mills. The machines are shipped all over the world. A large lathe, weighing 65 tons, was built and was the largest of its kind. When the capitol buildings at Havana, Cuba were built, the Patch-Wegner Company furnished the machinery for preparing the stone and this machinery was so efficient that as much stone could be cut in two hours as two men, working in their primitive way, could cut in 18 days. This machinery made it possible to complete the capitol buildings within the required time.

The G. H. Grimm Company manufactures a complete line of utensils used by the modern maple sugar maker. The output includes over 20 sizes of three types of evaporators, also sap spouts, buckets, bucket covers and storage tanks. The sales territory includes New England and the states of New York and Pennsylvania. The G. H. Grimm company markets large quantities of maple syrup each year.

The Manning Manufacturing Company is a large manufacturer of dairy and creamery equipment and supplies. The products are largely distributed all over the dairy section of the United States.

L. & L. A. Steward, Inc. manufactures a general line of tin cans for maple syrup and other food products. For over half a century the Steward" syrup cans and sugar pails have been extensively used by the sugar makers of New England and New York State and have become so well and favorably known that they are truly "A New England Container for a New England Product." The Steward Company also builds a line of special machinery for making and sealing tin cans. These machines are used in many factories throughout the United States and the concern has recently exported automatic top seaming machines to England, Holland, Switzerland, Australia and New Zeland.

The national advertising of the Rutland Fire Clay Company featuring "Rutland Useful Products" has made Rutland known from coast to coast. The Rutland Fire Clay Company's principal products are patching plaster for repairing small breaks, roof coatings for rejuvenating leaky roofs, concrete patcher for easily repairing breaks in concrete, stove lining for economically repairing stove linings and asphalt paint for metal surfaces. The materials largely used in their products are fire clay, asbestos, gilsonite and gypsum. The plant employs over 25 traveling representatives selling their output to 25,000 customers.

There is a saying, "Where have all the children gone?" Rutland can say, "Where has all the business gone?"

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 28, 1932

DESTINY OF POLICE WAGON IS UNDECIDED

The fate of the Rutland police department patrol wagon is now in the balance. A recommendation of the board of aldermen that it be placed in storage has yet to receive the mayor's approval. Commissioner John C. Fox, while not yet officially informed of the recommendation, declared that no orders for shelving the wagon have been given. Chief of Police, Roy H. Leonard said that his action will be governed by the orders of the commissioner.

Mayor Arthur W. Perkins said, following a conference with Commissioner Fox and Chief Leonard, that the aldermanic action was but a recommendation to the commissioner. The commissioner, he said, is at the head of the police department with authority and responsibility of operating that part of the city government in the best interests of the citizens.

Commissioner Fox declared that when a patrol wagon was first furnished for the police department in 1926, it was done as an economy measure, the expense of taxi service in place of a patrol wagon being too costly. He said that a number of windows in taxicabs had been broken by intoxicated prisoners and others who wished to resist arrest before a patrol wagon was purchased. This expense was paid by the city, he said.

Chief Leonard stated that during conferences with the commissioner, it has been tentatively planned to place Officer Quincy M. Baker regularly on the vacant beat, formerly occupied by Officer Thomas Elworth, who is confined to bed by illness. If this is done, the chief explained, Officer Baker will "gas and oil" the machine when he goes to work in the morning, then will go out on his beat. Should a call be received for the patrol wagon, the desk officer will call Officer Baker from the beat. This will cause a delay of approximately 15 or 20 minutes between the receipts of the call and the sending out of the wagon.

Mayor Perkins intimated that he would not sign the resolution recommending the shelving of the wagon until the end of the time allowed by the charter.

January 27, 1933

"Black Moria" Cost City \$33.48 in Year

The police patrol "wagon" was run during 1932 at a net cost to the city of \$33.48, the annual report of Henry C. Brislin, commissioner of public safety, shows. The one-and-one-half-ton truck, which is used by the department to answer all calls where a vehicle is necessary, was sent out 427 times during the 12 months.

In each instance where an arrest was made--147 in all -- the person arrested was taxed \$1 through court costs. This goes to the state but is all returned eventually to the city. There was paid out for operating the truck \$107.51 for gasoline, \$62.97 for repairs and \$10 for oil. This amounts to \$180.48. The \$147 taken in reduced this to \$33.48.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The following article raises a question about the Nickwackett Fire House that presently houses the Rutland Historical Society.

The Nickwackett Engine Company No. 1 was organized on 17 August 1859. The Nickwackett was a reorganization of the original fire fighting society incorporated in 1829. It was one of eight volunteer neighborhood fire societies that came into being between 1829 and 1885. They formed a brotherhood of fire societies that vied with each other in wearing colorful uniforms, in outdoing one another in hosting social affairs as well as competing when the companies scheduled events to show-off their fire fighting skills.

The original fire fighting company had purchased a new engine in 1844, dubbed the *Torrent*. It was the first horse-drawn engine. One of the volunteer firemen wrote a song to the tune of Lutzon's "Wild Hunt". One stanza says:

*We heed not the weather, we fear not the flames,
And midnight and mid-day are with us the same.
At all times you'll find us undaunted,
But give us of water a plenteous supply!
WATER!
Water! Water! We ask and the fire shall die.*

That water supply came from a reservoir near Deer Street and Woodstock Avenue. Wooden pump logs were replaced by iron pipes that extended from East Street to Pleasant Street. The improved system reassured residents of the Village, shaken by three disastrous fires that had occurred between 1845 and 1868. Each conflagration had wiped-out nearly an entire block of buildings, primarily business establishments.

It was in 1860 that the Rutland Village Corporation voted to spend twelve hundred dollars to build a new house for an engine ordered to replace the old *Torrent*. Late that year a new engine house on Center Street was completed at a cost of nineteen hundred dollars. It measured twenty-four by forty-eight feet and had a twenty-five foot hose tower in the rear. The upper floor was used for meetings. In 1886 the thirty-four members of the Nickwackett Volunteer Company wore red jackets with blue collars and trim, white belts with wine trim and black trousers with hats to match.

The new engine named the *Nickwackett* was a crane-necked, side-stroke with a mahogany trunk. It weighed 1800 pounds and the four hundred feet of hose weighted one thousand pounds. It was capable of shooting three streams of water at once for a distance of 180 feet.

Prominent citizens over the years had helped to support the volunteer fire companies but by 1892 insurance rates and outdated equipment, plus rivalry among the units, made the volunteer system financially ineffective.

The newly-chartered City of Rutland could not afford to finance the various hose houses. On 3 January 1894 the volunteers responded to their last call. Gone forever was the volunteer fire department with its 225 men, the colorful uniforms and popular social functions. The city purchased equipment from the various companies and housed it at the City Hall Station and at Nickwackett. The old Nickwackett fire house, used until 10 December 1969, now stands in the shadow of a modern engine house manned by professional fire fighters. Rescued from neglect, it has regained its dignity and birthright as part of the city's history.

The question being asked of anyone who may have some knowledge about the old fire house is: Was there ever a twenty-five foot hose tower in the rear of the building?

Tidbits From Then and Now

An interesting "rise & fall" of local liquor suppliers as reported in two local newspapers.

Rutland Daily Herald, July 26, 1874 & Rutland Daily Globe, July 27, 1874

On Saturday, officers Perkins and Crawford, under the direction of the Citizens Committee, took a little turn among the liquor sellers, where they met with fair success. At Charles Allen's place they dug up a gallon of gin from a secret place under the basement floor. James McLaughlin was also a man that officers were directed to visit. James, thinking no doubt that a milk can would not be looked into, had one in which was a gallon of whiskey. It did not escape the watchful eye of the officers and they carried it off in triumph. At the corner of West Street and Merchants Row, John McCormick was relieved of two three-gallon jugs of whiskey that were found in a secret hole underneath the floor of the basement.

Rutland Daily Herald, February 26, 1875 & Rutland Daily Globe, February 25, 1875

Several important liquor cases have been recently decided. A number of seizures were made last July and August. The liquors were condemned, but indictments for keeping with intent to sell were not brought at that time. Complaints have now been made and tried before Justice J.J.R. Randall as follows: State vs. James McLaughlin. Six cases of keeping with intent to sell. Fines and costs imposed amounting to \$153.62; State vs. Henry Baldrige. Two cases of keeping with intent to sell. Fines and costs imposed amounting to \$54.54; State vs. John Haley. One case of keeping with intent to sell. Fine and costs, \$17.27.

All of these decisions have been appealed to the County Court.

Rutland Daily Herald, March 15, 1875

The committee of arrangements of the AOH [Ancient Order of Hibernians] have completed their program for the celebration of St. Patrick's Day. Dr. Hanrahan has been elected chief marshal and has appointed John P. Crowley, John McGann and James McLaughlin as aides.

Rutland Daily Herald, March 23, 1875 & Rutland Daily Globe, March 22, 1875

Another raid upon the purveyors of the ardent. Armed with the necessary documents, Deputy Sheriff Millington visited the saloon of James McLaughlin on Wales Street. Unlike the Irishman in the story who didn't mend his roof on pleasant days because it didn't need it and thought the weather was too bad to go out on rainy ones, Mr. McLaughlin was out on the roof attending to some matters there. The latch string hung hospitably out [the door was unlocked] and upon entering, the officer proceeded to investigate the nature of the stock in trade. He found nothing that particularly struck his fancy except a pint of whisky and a pint of gin. These he told the proprietor, who had just entered, he guessed he would take, and showing him his card, said he might want to come round to the office if he wanted to and he would settle with him. The proprietor thought he wouldn't trouble himself.

Being joined by Policeman Crawford, Deputy Millington walked around to Washington Street and visited Samuel Hayward. They were greeted cordially as they entered and asked if they had come to trade. They answered that perhaps they might if they could find what they wanted and said they thought they would look around,. They seemed hard to please at first, but at last Millington thought that, as he was keeping a boarding house, perhaps he'd get some beans. There were a couple of barrels of nice ones there and as he was poking them over, he asked Hayward what he'd take for them. Hayward thought they weren't worth quite so much as they had been when he saw a jug pulled out. The price of produce fell still further when two more jugs appeared. In spite of all their dickering, they didn't make a trade. Those barrels were not as full as they were by the bulk of two jugs of whiskey and one of rum. At John Haley's on Center Street, the bartender, who always has an eye on the door, saw the officer as he entered. Realizing the danger he faced, he emptied what little stock he had into the sink.

Rutland Daily Herald, March 30, 1875 & Rutland Daily Globe, March 31, 1875

Deputy Sheriff Millington made a call on James McLaughlin on Wales Street yesterday. He was armed with the necessary papers and brought away one jug of rum as the reward of his troubles.

Rutland Daily Herald, April 22, 1875 & Rutland Daily Globe, April 23, 1875

The sour-smelling staves of the musty old rum barrel will, in the future, miss the bewitching embrace of James McLaughlin; the whiskey jug will forget his firm grip as he twirled it aloft to pour the flowing flagon full. The sad and gloomy countenances and heavy eyes of his many customers will miss the seductive smile that played upon his lips as he reached for the hard-earned ten-cent scrip. But James has gone and few respectable people will mourn. He left town quietly and peacefully as though going on a visit to a dying friend. McLaughlin got wind of the matter and having been fined twice before, preferred New York State to a three month residence in jail. While he remained with us, he could chew the plastic quid, measure out the sparkling Geneva or flip the laborer's dime with the best of them. When the officers came around, he could twirl a barrel of ale or invert a flagon of whiskey with the utmost dexterity. But he has left town and with a parting "send-off", we bid him adieu.

Rutland Daily Herald, May 14, 1875

The goods left behind by James McLaughlin when he forsook his palace of sin on Wales Street and left Rutland for his own good, were sold by auction in front of the Depot Park yesterday. The prices realized would seem to indicate that the rum business is growing unpopular in Rutland.

Looks like back then they had many of the same problems we have today!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 20-25, 1934

MEMORIAL TO GENERAL EDWARDS UNVEILED JUNE 24 AT MAIN ST. PARK

The third annual convention of the Yankee Division of WWI was held in Rutland on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June 22, 23 and 25. One of the highlights of the convention was the dedication of a memorial on Sunday afternoon to General Clarence R. Edwards the "daddy of the 26th division" overseas. The monument was set up in Main Street Park, near Washington Street by employees of the Vermont Marble Company.

The memorial which was erected by YD men of Vermont as a tribute to comrades who died in the war contains the inscription: "To Maj. Gen. Clarence Edwards upon the occasion of the third annual national reunion, the Yankee Division, A.E.F., has caused this memorial to be erected. June 24, 1934".

Clarence R. Edwards was born in Cleveland, Ohio. He graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1883 and entered the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant in the 23rd Infantry. During WWI, Edwards had charge of the Department of the Northeast, where he organized the 26th Division in 1917. By successive promotions, he attained the rank of Major-General and retired in that grade December 1922, after 40 years of service. He was awarded the Croix de Guerre with palm and made an officer of the Legion of Honor. He died in 1931 and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery where his statue stands.

Phil Sanborn, editor of "Yankee Doings", the monthly publication of the YD Veterans' Association, in promoting the YD convention stated that, "It's an easy matter to uncork a lot of press-agent hooey about any coming event in order to stir up enthusiasm and get folks to turn out. Of course, that is partly the purpose of this. But it isn't the 'truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.' The whole truth is that Rutland has got 'something.' We don't exactly know ourselves what it is; but the feeling persists--the hunch, if you want to call it--that this year's YD convention is going to be 'a natural'."

"It isn't a big place--Rutland, But it is the biggest small place we ever saw, If you know what we mean; lively, hustling, busy, hospitable--something going on every minute, even when no convention is in town."

"Funny how towns run; some are great, big sprawling places, and you sit around wondering what to do, or if anything ever happens. Others, little ones, are so packed full of life and spirit that you're at home before you've been there 15 minutes. That's Rutland as we see it, and if you don't find it that way, we'll take the rap."

With the business district gaily decorated with bunting, Rutland prepared to welcome more than 2000 YD veterans who were expected to arrive for the three-day, third annual convention of the

Yankee Division Association. General Charles Cole of Boston, senior surviving officer of the 26th "Yankee" division, was scheduled to be in the city for the annual three-day reunion.

On Saturday, the largest crowd to assemble in Rutland's business center since announcement of the signing of the Armistice watched the YD convention parade. About 25 minutes was required for the big procession to pass a given point as there were more than 2000 persons in the line. Daniel J. Dowd of Woodstock, oldest living YD veteran rode in front of the parade, on his white mare, "Gray Dawn". The "gold star" mothers, who lost their sons in the war, rode next in line in automobiles. The Rutland City Band was the first musical organization in the long line. The Mount St. Joseph Academy band, attired in natty green and white uniforms, drew rounds of applause from the crowds lining the streets.

YD veterans came to attention, their heels clicked together and their hands drew stiffly toward their foreheads as an automobile bearing a picture of Gen. Clarence R. Edwards, war-time commander of the "Fighting 26th", passed by. The beautiful float of Rutland Lodge, Fraternal Order of Eagles, titled "Flowery Home for Aged," was judged the best. The float depicted a peaceful country home, with lambs on the lawn and an old couple looking peacefully on. The float advocated old age pensions.

On Sunday, June 25th, Col. William J. Keville of Boston gave a brief eulogy and the dedicatory address paying tribute to the late Gen. Edwards as "our great leader, the beloved friend of war mothers of New England, a gallant soldier, a great citizen, a loyal patriot." William Blake of Boston, retiring president of the Yankee Division Association referred to the part Vermont soldiers took in the war. One of the windows of the chapel in Belleau, [France] built by YD subscriptions, bears the seal of Vermont.

The question last week about a 25 foot hose tower on the back of the old Nickwackett Firehouse was promptly solved. A quick response by the alert Rutland Fire Department noted that after consulting Michael Walsh, fire department historian, the Nickwackett Fire House never had a hose drying tower. Their hoses were dried in the drying tower downtown in the station at City Hall. However, there was a drying tower on the old Baxter Fire House on the corner of Grove St. and Library Ave. This firehouse was moved and became a private home and the tower no longer exists.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 25, 1934

10,000 TURN OUT AT DEDICATION OF RUTLAND AIRPORT

With the zooming of aircraft, oratory and band music, Rutland's \$40,000 flying field, built with the aid of government funds, was dedicated yesterday afternoon. A crowd estimated at 10,000 thronged the borders of the field and stood at vantage points along the highway or on roofs of nearby buildings to watch the aerial maneuvers carried on by planes of the 26th Division, Massachusetts National Guard and 43rd Division Air Squadron, Connecticut National Guard.

Thousands of motor vehicles were parked in the vicinity of Wilson Field on lower South Main Street where the airport was located [now the Rutland Plaza]. Weather conditions were perfect, the strong west wind apparently being no hindrance to the aerial performers.

The Rutland City band played at intervals during the exercises. With the band was Andrew Catozzi, Vermont's veteran bandsman. Speeches were brief owing to the fact that the orators were obliged to make themselves heard above the roar of big airplanes diving 100 feet or so overhead in salute.

State's Attorney Crowley paid tribute to the aldermen's airport committee which made the landing field possible. He said the city was indebted to Walter F. Burbank, chairman of the local airport committee, for one of the best fields in New England. Lieutenant Governor Smith, discussed the development of traveling methods since General Amherst cut a path through the wilderness in Vermont 150 years ago. He too congratulated Rutland on having one of the finest landing fields in the country. Mayor Perkins declared that the field was the outcome of the dream of four or five Rutland men who became air-minded a few years ago. He expressed pleasure in the fact that the Yankee Division men, in Rutland for their annual convention, were taking part in the exercises.

The big crowd was entertained for an hour by three Massachusetts National Guard flyers and two Connecticut Guard aviators who demonstrated various uses of aircraft in warfare.

The new airport occupies the site of a portion of the F.M. Wilson estate farm and a field owned by the Charles A. Perkins estate. No hanger has been erected on the field. It was planned at first to construct gravel runways, but this idea was abandoned because of lack of funds. The entire tract is grassed over.

TWO DIE AS AIRPLANES COLLIDE AT CITY AIRPORT

A brooding silence hovered over Rutland airport yesterday. The sky was clear and the sun was broiling hot, just the weather for a successful show at the airport where dedication exercises were held. The hum of airplanes above attracted the attention of the persons who were at the landing field. The hum became a roar and then a rending, ripping crash, high up in the heavens told of a

tragedy there. Two planes had collided, a huge Bellanca cabin monoplane and a Douglas observation bi-plane. The Bellanca plane hurtled earthward carrying two men, William H. McMullen the pilot and R. L. Oakes a photographer of New York. The lone pilot of the Douglas plane, Capt. Herbert H. Mills of Hartford CT, had jumped when the collision occurred. He came to the ground, buoyed by his parachute, safe and sound. The Bellanca plane appeared to have been coming from a northerly direction and the Douglas plane from a southerly direction.

Capt. Mills had just arrived over Rutland to participate in the dedication exercises, after having flown here alone from Hartford, and was decreasing his altitude preparatory to landing when his plane collided with the cabin craft carrying McMullen and Oakes. McMullen and Oakes had been taking pictures of the hills and vales that are incorporated in the Vermont National Forest and the proposed parkway for the Aerial Exploration Survey Company of New York . It was assumed that they had ended their survey for the day and were en route back to Glens Falls. They noticed the crowd at the Rutland airport and circled over to view it when the collision took place.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 29, 1934

EVEN ANIMALS MADE THE HEADLINES

Reporter Holds "Jimmy" the Skunk on His Lap Until He Learns Awful Truth

A pet skunk has won the hearts of William Herrick's household, at the Bardwell farm on the Creek Road. "Jimmy" has all the rights, privileges and affection of the most pampered cat. In addition to winning the hearts of the family, "Jimmy's" charms have even overcome the natural suspicion of the other pets on the farm--a large and rather ferocious dog, who looks as if he wouldn't be seen dead with a skunk, and two cats. They all get along very well together.

"Jimmy" was found last summer in a hay field, when he was very small--only about a quarter grown. With some reluctance, he was adopted on trial by the family. His interest in food is great and enduring and his figure, which was probably never very graceful, has now reached proportions which could not be described even by the most kindhearted saleslady as a "stylish stout." He is stout but not stylish.

The skunk comes when he is called, but he does not see very well and depends more on his nose than his eyes. When younger and slimmer, he is said to have had a gay disposition and frequently played with a rubber ball. The suggestion of food cheers him up a good deal, and he will sit up and beg. He sometimes plays with the cats, who roll him over and over on the floor. He has evidently trained his figure for rolling purposes.

Roaming freely about the house, "Jimmy" never shows any desire to run away. He has a little house of his own to sleep in outside, but prefers to lie under the kitchen stove. "He is getting very sleepy now, with winter coming on," his owner said, "but I understand that they don't have to hibernate."

"Jimmy" is not able to climb stairs, but it is not clear whether this is a natural limitation of all skunks, or just fat skunks. He prefers to eat in private and has any scraps that are left on the table. His tastes in food are indiscriminate. Herrick says that "Jimmy" is very clean and always washes his face after meals.

The skunk appeared to be aware of the presence of a stranger and was a little shy when urged to climb into the Herald reporter's lap. His shyness, however, was nothing compared to that of the reporter. Toward the end of the interview, his fears lulled by the skunk's apparent good nature, the reporter lifted "Jimmy" up in a gingerly fashion. "Don't you worry," the owner said, "he's all right. Of course, you know, he's never been operated on."

Completely unnerved, the Herald representative hastily, but with great care, removed "Jimmy" from his lap and gave indication of his desire to terminate the interview at once. "No," said

Herrick, "he's never been operated on, but he's always behaved himself and never made any trouble. I don't think he ever will, either."

Then in the form of an ad:

FOR SALE

A Nice, Friendly Little DOG

A mighty fine little feller, reckon he's about three months old, kind of brownish in color, with long ears and a long tail.

We got him from a man that needed some underwear and rubbers, we traded with him, and 'cause we got a dog ... we've got to sell this one for \$2.95.

You'll admit the price isn't much . . .but this little dog will be worth a fortune in friendship to someone who will give him a bone and a warm corner to sleep in.

If you want to see him . . . come in the OUTLET STORE . . . and he'll demonstrate himself.

(P.S.---We don't believe he's house-broke yet.)

Tidbits From Then and Now

This year as election day approaches, many are wondering if the city should return to having aldermen (should I say alderpersons) elected from each ward. It's funny how history really repeats itself.

Rutland Weekly Herald, February 25, 1909

Excerpt from the Montpelier Journal

As the time for the city election draws near it would not be a bad plan for the people who attend the caucuses and election this year to consider whether in their opinion conditions would be improved by the election of aldermen at large instead of by wards. At the present session of the Legislature the charter of Rutland City was amended so as to bring about this change. It really amounts to doing away with the wards of a city except for a systematic division of the city for carrying on the city work. This action was termed by some to be radical and perhaps it is, but perhaps the trend of the times is in the direction as exemplified in the action with reference to Rutland's charter for there was little opposition to the proposal from the members of the Legislature. It will probably not be many years before Vermont will adopt some uniform municipal corporation law and when that time comes, and it may not be so far away, the question as to the election of aldermen will come up for discussion.

In the case of Rutland the argument was used that this action was necessary to wrest the power from a clique that controlled the city's affairs. Some of the wards could not get any repairs, it was charged, and no division of the money spent for the city's benefit. All the money went into the wards represented by the men who had control, and of course, if these wards had the balance of power, as it was charged they did, the wards represented by the minority could not get what was due them on the basis of a square deal and they were powerless to act because the balance of power on the board always remained with the clique.

In Montpelier no such condition of affairs exists, nor has existed to a systematic degree, and if a change was made it would be made on some other pretext. It has been suggested that perhaps the city might be able to elect a stronger board of representative business men by its own election than it does by letting the job out to the different wards to make their own choice.

City Report for the year 1910

"I shall retire from the office of mayor, after three years' service, with a feeling of relief, realizing that mistakes have been made but conscious that in whatever I have done, I have had the interest and advancement of the city at heart. A complete change in our form of government has taken place during my service as mayor, a change that has placed Rutland among the progressive cities of the country in this respect. I believe the new charter has passed the experimental stage and that we have the right idea in city government. The charter is good enough for present needs if its provisions are faithfully carried out. Whether this is done will depend upon the officials who

have the city's affairs in their keeping, but primarily upon the citizens who choose such officials.
Respectfully submitted, H.O. Carpenter, Mayor"

Are we going "back to the future"?

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 21, 1935

Horse Car Rides of Late 80's Were Exciting affairs, Old Timers Recall

Pity the poor man who in 1885 found that his only way out of a ticklish situation was that old gag: "I was waiting for a street-car."

In those days, waiting for a street-car was not just waiting--it was a question of camping on the spot while the driver collected his team from a nearby hay field, or persuaded his mules by well-worn threats to amble along to the next stop.

The childhood memories of many Rutland citizens are filled with scenes such as these for until 1894, the Rutland Street Railway Company drew their cars along the "north belt," the "south belt" and the "main line" to West Rutland by horse and mule.

In 1894 it was the decision of the officers of the railway company to electrify the road and for this purpose a contract was drawn with the Rutland Electric Light Company to furnish power. Motors were installed in the cars and wires erected. The rolling stock of the company at that time consisted of approximately 25 open and closed streetcars and one express car. In 1903, service was extended from West Rutland to Fair Haven and Bomoseen. Many and wild are the tales concerning the parties and picnics which were held at the railways' pavilion at Bomoseen.

In 1910 the road was further extended from Fair Haven to Poultney to accommodate the slate quarries in that vicinity which moved their freight from the D&H connection in Poultney. With the rapidly growing use of the automobile, the Rutland Street Railway Company from 1920 on began slowly to lose ground in both passenger and freight traffic. In 1924, all track west of West Rutland was sold to the Vermont Slate Belt Line Railway Company. This company, controlled by the New England Milling Company of Poultney, operated the line only until the spring of 1925 when fire destroyed the milling plant. The Rutland "belt lines" of the street railway, dying from lack of patronage in spite of boosted fares, withdrew from business in December 1924.

In 1888 the car on the North belt line started east on Center street, went along Wales Street to Washington and up Washington Street. However the route was changed to east on Madison Street during the winter as the horse-pulled car could not get around the corner at Washington and Wales, but frequently, in spite of all efforts of horses and driver to the contrary, would start sliding backwards down Washington to the city hall.

Difficulties on the South belt line, running from Center Street and Merchants Row to Strongs Avenue and South Main Street, usually beset the driver somewhere along the hill near the Howe Scale Works. It was here that the driver needed all his coolness to keep his car from coasting down the hill faster than the horses were walking. When this was impossible and the car bumped against the horses' heels, the driver resorted to "pulling the pin"--an act which freed the horses from their harness and allowed the car to roll on its own merry way as far as its momentum

would carry it. The difficulty with this was that by the time the car came to a halt, the horses would be nowhere in sight. Drivers were seldom perturbed by this, however, but with no ado whatsoever, would leave the passengers to their own devices while they went over the hills and far away in search of the team.

Motor buses now cruise the routes, over which the famous old horse cars and modern electric trolley cars once passed.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 27, 1936

House, Century Old, To Be Demolished

The 15 room house, adjacent to St. Paul's Universalist Church on West Street, believed to be more than 100 years old, is being razed. The structure, at one time used as a training school for girls who intended to become nuns, has been put to many uses.

Abandoned since last summer and considered to be beyond the stage of worthwhile repairing, the board of trustees of the Universalist Church last week ordered the building torn down. Walter F. Chapman, Rutland contractor, has been engaged to do the work and before the present week elapses only a hole in the ground, indicating the cellar, will remain to mark the spot where the landmark stood.

No records can be uncovered which give the exact date on which the structure was erected, but it is believed that it was built by Charles B. Mann who used it for a residence.

The house eventually passed into possession of Annie and Mary F. Bruneau who deeded it with the property to Virginie Drehamel of Montreal on June 15, 1874. She purchased it for the French Catholic Church.

From 1874 until about September 1885, a period of 11 years, the building was occupied by the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

On September 23, 1885, the trustees of the Universalist Church bought the premises as the site for St. Paul's Church. While the church was being erected on a part of the lot and for several years afterwards, the former school was used for a parsonage by Rev. George W. Perry, first pastor of St. Paul's.

The church was constructed in 1888 by David and James Betts, contractors then living in this city. Members on the board of trustees who had part in the purchase of the property were: Benjamin Billings, Jr., A. P. Fuller, Dr. J. E. Thomson, O. L. Hill and E. H. Wood. The purchase price was \$7,000.

When Mr. Perry gave up the pastorate, the property was leased as a dwelling place and was vacant for long periods. It was also used as a store on various occasions. Perley R. Eaton rented it for many years as headquarters for a lumber business. The last tenant was Mary Livingston, who operated a small store in the front room on the ground floor.

The building was constructed of brick and wood. The years left a deep impression on it until the point was reached in which it was considered unprofitable to repair it. The site will remain vacant as no plans to rebuild have been formulated by the trustees of the church.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 5, 1936

Proposed Charter Revision Being Studied as Committee Seeks Auditor

The finance committee of the board of aldermen is searching for an expert accountant to go over the city's books in January, along with the regular auditors, with the view of modernizing the accounting system. Meanwhile City Attorney Vernon J. Loveland is looking into the possibility of asking the Legislature to permit alterations in the city charter with a view of changing the time of the city's fiscal year and making other changes.

Alderman Henry P. Battles, chairman of the finance committee stated that, "while on the question of a special audit with a view to changes in our accounting system, it might be well to consider a revision of our antiquated city charter."

Some suggested changes are: Tax rate fixed by the city council in March of each year; poll taxes due and payable April 1st and property taxes paid in quarterly installments. In this manner, considerable money is saved by the interest on temporary loans. Budget submitted on or before June 30. This gives the new administration control over the expenditures for the entire term of their office. The charter at present allows the budget to be adopted prior to December 30, for the ensuing year, therefore forcing a new administration taking office on March 15, to follow along for the entire year with what the previous administration left them. Fiscal Year begins on the first day of July and ends on the 30th day of June the following year. (This is the fiscal period generally adopted by municipalities, including the State of Vermont). These were only suggestions and it was recommended to the city attorney to ascertain what merits there were in a charter revision for the city of Rutland.

January 6, 1937

The task of making a thorough audit of Rutland City's accounts will be started January 18 by accountants of the Frank L. Willis Company of Concord, NH. In addition to checking accuracy of the books, the accountants will make recommendations for the setting up of a new system of keeping the city's accounts. Aldermen awarded the contract for the work to the Willis Company after considering a number of bids. The Willis Company was highly recommended to the Rutland aldermen by the officials of numerous New England cities where audits have been done.

January 18, 1937

George H. Willis of Concord, NH, public accountant and three assistants will start today to make a thorough audit of the books of all city department including the school department for 1936. The work will take between 10 days and two weeks, if no irregularities are discovered. While the audit is being made, the accountants will make recommendations for revision of the city's bookkeeping system to bring it up to date. A simplified and modern system is expected to result from their work. The school department's books in the audit are out of the usual course followed

in past years, but the city charter authorized the aldermen to provide a competent professional auditor to assist the local auditors in auditing all city accounts including those of the board of school commissioners. Alderman Battles stated that this clause in the charter has not been lived up to in the past years.

January 30, 1937

The need of a uniform system for figuring the city's deficit was voiced by Alderman Henry P. Battles, chairman of the board's finance committee. He stated it was his belief that the 1936 deficit was about \$53,000 and not \$43,167 as had been announced by other city officials. Battles said that figures, such as this deficit figure will vary and are misleading if compiled on a different basis each year and this instance is an example of the necessity of the city adopting a uniform and modern system of accounting. This year it has been stated in computing the deficit, that deductions have been allowed for the increased amount of cash on hand in all accounts at the close of the year, including school, water, bond, special and closed accounts. The report shows that as of December 31, 1936, there was a cash balance in all accounts.

February 2, 1937

Recommendations for changes in the city's method of bookkeeping were presented to the board of aldermen. A double entry system to replace the present single entry method was the principal proposal for saving time and providing for more effective control of expenditures. The aldermen referred the recommendations to the board of finance for investigation and prompt report. The proposed changes were incorporated in a printed report from Frank L. Willis. In his report he stated "The detailed bookkeeping of the city of Rutland, with the exception of a few instances, furnished the needed control of income and expenditures although considerable savings of time can be secured by changes in routine and the form of the records. In order to exercise the needed control, monthly information as to the financial position of the city for the executive officers, board of finance and board of aldermen is imperative. The only way this material can be available accurately and without an enormous amount of effort is to accumulate in a general ledger records of revenue, appropriations, obligations and expenditures as the transactions occur. The end-of-the-year "rush" in the treasurer's office will be largely eliminated and if the control thus set up is used effectively, there should be substantial savings to the city."

Does 1937 have sounds reminiscent of 2007?

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 25, 1937

Pump Logs, Century-Old, Are Relics of Rutland Village

Two pump logs, relics of early Rutland, were uncovered recently by men excavating for an addition to the Novak building at South Main and West Streets [now the Lindholm building]. These logs, each bored longitudinally with a hole two inches in diameter, formed part of the first water system of the village of Rutland.

Although known to early Rutland residents as "pump logs," the hollowed wooden devices were really conduits, used in place of the metal or cement pipes common today. They were laid horizontally, each having a beveled end which fitted into the opening of another log, thus forming a conduit which covered a considerable area.

The two logs were found between six and seven feet below the surface of the ground. Some filling had been placed above them, but they lay in what workmen styled "virgin soil."

Sections of hemlock tree trunks, about eight inches in diameter, were used to form the crude piping. The holes either were bored with an auger or burned with red hot iron, opinions of today differing as to the method that probably was used. The holes in the two sections of logs found were not bored through the center but rather about half-way between the heartwood and the edge.

The bark on the ancient logs had rotted away except for a few shreds, but the logs were perfectly sound in spite of their long burial.

The late Gershom Cheney, who was closely identified with the development of early Rutland, laid the first water system of which the recently unearthed logs were a part. The system dates back to 1798.

The water used at first came from the foot of the mountains in Mendon. One of the earliest reservoirs built in connection with the water system was a small one located on Tenney Brook a short distance west of East Mountain. A portion of the dam is still standing. This is known to some persons as the Gleason reservoir.

Another early reservoir was situated on the north side of Woodstock Avenue, near what is now Deer Street [The parking lot of the Godnick Center is located on that spot]. Still another water supply source a generation or more ago was the Duffy reservoir, located on the upper reaches of Moon Brook.

The Rutland Historical Society is in possession of some "water logs" and has part of one on display. When a group of first graders visited the Society, one young lad was fascinated that the artifact was found underground. He stated that "If I ever dig up anything valuable like that, I'll bring it here!" Really makes you feel good about the future!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 7, 1937

Proposed Free Parking Lot in Business Zone

A campaign to raise \$10,000 for the purpose of providing a free parking area in Rutland got underway with evidence of enthusiasm to solve Rutland's long-standing parking problem. The new parking space will have a normal capacity of about 80 cars, but the number may be increased through the construction of a ramp to an over-head parking area, thus doubling the capacity. Those in charge of the project have secured, by lease and purchase, tracts of land at the intersection of Willow and Edson Streets which will be merged as a parking enclosure. There are two building on one corner of the land that will be razed.

July 13, 1937

The 80-car free-parking area at the intersection of Willow and Edson Streets will be ready for occupancy by August 1, unless some unforeseen obstacle arises. This was announced by Albert A. Cree, president of the Rutland Development Corporation, co-incident with the filing in the office of the City Clerk of Deeds showing the purchase of two adjoining pieces of property by the corporation. Leases of two other tracts have been secured. The purchases and rental arrangements give sponsors of the parking project control of about 13,000 square feet of land. A house, another large wooden building and some smaller structures which stood on the tracts have been razed or are in the process of demolition so that the leveling of the ground and erection of a fence may be started within a few days. One of the pieces of property was deeded to the development corporation by Miss Bernice R. Tuttle as trustee of the estate of Egbert C. Tuttle. The property is on Edson Street. The corporation also bought from the estate of William H. Valiquette, property at the intersection of Willow and Edson Streets.

A caretaker will be hired to see that motor vehicles are properly parked in the enclosure and that the privileges accorded are not abused. A committee comprising William I. Ginsburg, Robert C. Boynton and Thomas W. McMinn are framing a set of rules to govern use of the parking area. There had been several movements looking to the solving of the parking problem in the business center, but none took concrete form until a group of business men and others met at the Rutland Country Club in May, formed the Rutland Development Corporation and took steps to secure stock subscriptions.

July 24, 1937

Rutland City took a hand in the move to create a free parking space for shoppers in the heart of the city's business section. Albert A. Cree, president of the Rutland Development Corporation said that the area will be open to the public about August 1. Before the space is opened, four or more lights will be installed to make the place safe for driving and a fence will be placed about the area so that a caretaker can watch the cars to prevent looting by petty thieves.

August 4, 1937

Employees of the Central Vermont Public Service corporation began erecting poles and putting up four electric lights on the site of the free parking area. It is planned to cover the area with a black-top surface and it will then be ready for use. Bright orange and black signs will be displayed at strategic points on the streets of the business section pointing the way to the free parking area.

August 9, 1937

The free parking area for Rutland shoppers opened to the public today with Frank Mailhiot as caretaker. He will be on duty from 8 a.m. until 6 p.m. every day except Saturday when he will remain at his post until 9:30 p.m. The space is not to be used by business or professional persons or their employees to park their cars while they are at their places of business or employment and all Rutland people are asked to see that the space is available for those patronizing the stores, shops and offices in Rutland's business center.

August 10, 1937

Scores of shoppers, principally from out of the city, took advantage of the opening of the free parking area. Frank Mailhiot, caretaker in charge of the grounds, estimated that there were upwards of 350 cars parked in the area during the first day. Most of them stayed about two or three hours, he said. A check of the registration numbers of the cars revealed that despite warnings, there were a few autos on the lot which were owned by business or professional men. There was a bank employee's car, a printing establishment's vehicle, cars owned by a railroad official, a meat cutter employed in a Merchants Row store, a lawyer, an office worker and a mechanic.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 16, 1937

Murals Being Hung On Walls of Lobby In Federal Building

The long awaited hanging of eight murals in the lobby of Rutland's federal building started yesterday and by last night the first one had been placed in position at the right of the entrance near the office of Postmaster Henry C. Brislin. The eight murals depicting scenes in Vermont's early history were painted by Stephen Belaski of Bellows Falls as part of the federal art program carried on by the WPA [Works Progress Administration].

Captain Ebenezer Allen of Bennington is the central figure of the panel already in position. The mural tells the dramatic story of the freeing of the first slaves in Vermont on November 28, 1777, by Captain Allen. It shows the Bennington captain reading an official certificate of emancipation for Dina Mattis and her small child, who were found aboard a British baggage train. This historical incident occurred prior to the adoption of the Vermont constitution forbidding slavery.

Rutland Daily Herald, September 23, 1937

Rutland Not Bennington

"To the Editor of the Herald: I read with interest in Thursday's Herald of the hanging of the murals in the federal building in Rutland and wish to inquire upon what authority Ebenezer Allen is called "the Bennington captain," and why Company A of Rutland does not ask the Herald to speak of him as the Rutland captain. In 1777 Ebenezer Allen lived in Tinmouth and represented that town at the constitutional convention at Windsor July 1777.

"The freeing of Dinah and Nancy Mattis occurred in Pawlet, Vt., November 23, 1777 and a part of the document reads, "I, therefore, being conscientious [conscious] that it is not right in the sight of God to keep slaves, I, therefore, obtaining leave of the detachment under my command to give her and her child their freedom I do, therefore, give the said Dinah Mattis and Nancy, her child, their freedom."

"The detachment under Ebenezer Allen's command was the Second Company of the Green Mountain Boys, which Company was the Revolutionary ancestor of the Company now called Company A of Rutland. In 1775, Capt. Peleg Sunderland of Rutland was in command of the Second Company when Ticonderoga and Crown Point were taken and Capt. Sunderland signed the papers May 12, 1775 with Seth Warner, who was then captain of the First Company that announced the capture of Crown Point.

"The Dorset Convention of July 25, 1775 elected Oliver Potter of Clarendon captain of the Second Company, Ebenezer Allen of Tinmouth first Lieutenant and James Cleghorne

[Claghorn]of Rutland second Lieutenant. Capt. Oliver Potter died at the Siege of Quebec in the winter of 1775-76 and Ebenezer Allen succeeded to the command.

“The freeing of those negroes was done by the leave or authority of a company of Rutland County men, most of whom were from the vicinity of Rutland, and I would, therefore, like to know why Ebenezer Allen is called a Bennington man? It often seems to me that some people regard Bennington as others do George Washington; that is, as entitled to all of the credit of the American Revolution, under which circumstances it is surprising that those murals were given to Rutland, but let us hope that some day Rutland has another, picturing the making of the first law of freedom, which was done October 27, 1876,[Sic. probably 1776] when Vermont Legislature met in the old State House on West Street, Rutland, for the Vermont law then, made which prescribed a penalty of 100 pounds for an attempt to sell a person as a slave, is older than the United States Constitution.

--Albert B. Congdon
Danby, September 21, 1937”

How many have viewed the murals in the federal building [Post office]? How many local people know much about Rutland's amazing history?

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 3, 1937

CLUBWOMEN MAKE TOUR OF FOUR OLD RUTLAND BUILDINGS

Early History of City Traced by Mrs. Elinore Morgan in Talk On Historic Homes

The days of Rutland's settlement, when residents' property ran from their square frame homes on Main Street to East Creek and when the shopping district was near "federal" square [Main Street Park], were made vivid for members of the Rutland Woman's Club yesterday afternoon by Mrs. Elinore VanKirk Morgan of Peru and New York.

Mrs. Morgan, who has been spending several weeks in research, conducted a tour of the city's earliest homes and then in a talk at Howe's Coffee Shop told many incidents about the building of these homes, facts of historical importance and interest.

The first visit yesterday was to the Hollis I. Loveland house in Center Rutland which stands on the site of the first log church in Rutland. [The house still stands next to the Evergreen Cemetery and is commonly known as the Gookin House]. The house was built by Richard Gookin in 1794, about 24 years after the first settlement. The house is most notable for its beautiful front entrance, carved woodwork, triple window in the front hall, its original English wallpaper, Mrs. Morgan said. This wallpaper, forming a deep frieze, is composed of squares none of which are alike.

The group then visited the home of Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Mattison at 49 North Main Street, which for 120 years was occupied by only two families. The land was first recorded in 1791 to Major Elias Buell and became the property of Dr. Thomas Hooker, an apothecary, in 1796. When Charles K. Williams brought his bride there in 1817 he transformed the place from a farmhouse into the mansion type of home. He added the French black glass windows and hand carvings which are still to be seen. Williams was the 23rd governor of Vermont, from 1850 to 1852. He died in 1854. Frederick Swinnerton owned the house from 1881 to 1934 and it is now occupied by their daughter, Mrs. R. H. Mattison. [This home was known at one time as a restaurant called The Governor's Table and is now occupied by an accounting firm].

The Brown house at the corner of West and Nichols Street was built in 1793 and the first deed to the property was issued to Major Buell. Captain William Jenkins built a farmhouse type home there 50 years before Rutland became a village and 100 years before it became a city. When Nichols Street was laid out part of the hipped roof building [actually one room length] was cut away. The house now owned by Miss Amy Brown has been 144 years in the name of the original owner. Their land extended to East Creek and it was this family that gave the West Street Cemetery to Rutland. [This house was also known as the Ross House as some of the descendants of the family had the name of Ross. It was torn down after WWII.]

The Temple house at 64 North Main Street, a brick building erected in 1794, is owned by Mr. & Mrs. L. D. Pierce. The building has been greatly altered for comfort but it still has the original

front door, window above, front hall and hand rail of cherry. It also has the original hinges, spoon latches and Christian doors. A pane of glass in a second story window has scratched on it "Mary Temple--1846." Robert Temple, who erected the house when he was 29 years old, is a descendent of Lady Dorothy Temple and Governor Bradford. [This house is now occupied by a law firm.]

The Dyer house at Mill Village, was built in 1785 on Main Street when that thoroughfare was three miles long. It is thought to be the oldest house in the city. Originally of a simple farmhouse type, porches and urns were added under the influence of the Greek period of 1820. It was built by one of two brothers named Pooler. The place is a museum of antiques, the pieces including the foottub of Lady Peel of England. [This house is now occupied by Home & Farm Appliance. It is said that the building contains a beautiful fireplace among other things. Of interest is that there was a small "plaster" house in back of this house where a very destitute elderly woman lived. Mr. Dyer was known to have paid the taxes on her property and more or less took care of the woman. The "plaster" house was torn down after her death as it was not a salvageable piece of property.]

I thought it might be of interest to some residents to know that all but one of these houses, the Brown/Ross house, that were "toured" in 1937 (close to 70 years ago) are still standing and in good use.

Tidbits From Then and Now

A Neglected Pioneer in American Culture

Reverend Samuel Williams of Rutland was described by Pulitzer Prize winning historian Merle Curti as a neglected pioneer in American culture. Williams was co-founder and editor of the *Rutland Herald*. Besides founding the *Rutland Herald*, he compiled, in two volumes, the first written history of the state called *The Natural and Civil History of Vermont*. But Curti believes that Williams' real claim to fame lies in a manuscript entitled *Philosophical Lectures on the Constitution, Duty and Religion of Man* written in 1805 which in 1970 was published by the American Philosophical Society.

Williams was a Hollis Professor of Natural Philosophy at Harvard until 1788 at which time he resigned amid persistent rumors of forgery. Shortly after this he came to Vermont and became minister at Rutland's East Parish Congregational Church. He was on occasion a guest lecturer at the University of Vermont, but he never got an offer to teach in Burlington. His unrealized hope was to establish a college in Rutland.

In 1794 Williams co-founded, with Judge Samuel Williams (no relation) the *Rutland Herald* which announced in its first issue that it was ready to publish informative pieces "but nothing of an immoral tendency."

American culture was divided between two currents, one deist and Jeffersonian and the other neo-Calvinist and best expressed by Jonathan Edwards' sermons on man as a sinner in the hands of an angry God. On one hand there was a belief in the perfectibility of man and on the other, belief in the natural depravity of man. The split was expressed in conflict between science and religion, freedom and necessity, Jeffersonianism and Federalism, concern with man's potentials and with his limitations. Surprisingly, in view of the Federalist tone of *The Herald*, Williams set out to reconcile these philosophical differences through philosophical argument in his *Philosophical Lectures on the Constitution, Duty and Religion of Man*. He succeeded in the sense that the manuscript brought together conflicting cultural strains and pointed toward a typically American synthesis serviceable to the culture of the new country.

A review of the Williams arguments showed the philosopher defining a limited sense in which human nature was perfect. Because man was perfect in only a limited sense, he had to struggle to improve himself. One of his greatest aids in the struggle were the institutions developed by society, the unifying concept in American culture.

Williams thought was "virtuous and elegant," and shared not only with the eminent but the humble. His paper's editorial bent was Federalist rather than Jeffersonian. He had come out for law and order at the time of the Whiskey Rebellion, approved of the Alien and Sedition Act and called leaders of the French revolution doctrinaire.

In today's world the conflict of "who's right or who's wrong" still goes on. But now, after over 200 years, Williams' *Rutland Herald* has moved from it's birthplace. Rutland has grown over that time and does have colleges that Williams would be proud to find in his adopted "Village".

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Tidbits From Then and Now

#410 May 2, 2007

Rutland Daily Herald, April 28, 1939

CITY AIRPORT NON-EXISTENT

While the 100-acre Wilson-Perkins fields, discarded as an airport site after \$74,224 had been expended in leasing and developing them, are slowly returning to their former state as meadow lands, the city remains without a landing field. Aviators state that it would be difficult at present, because of the wet condition of the ground, to find a place where a plane could land near the city in case of an emergency.

As far as can be learned, no plans for the establishment of an airport here are being formed and there has been little discussion of the matter since the voters, on March 7, rejected a proposal to spend \$25,000 to buy the 80-acre Wilson site. It had been previously explained that the 20-acre adjoining Perkins tract, which the city had been leasing, was not for sale.

The standing committees for 1939, recently appointed by William T. Simonds, president of the board of aldermen, did not include an airport committee. There was such a committee last year, Alderman Christopher A. Webber having been its head.

The city leased the Wilson and Perkins fields in 1934, during the administration of the late Mayor Arthur W. Perkins. The leases ran for five years and the rental fee was \$2000 annually for the Wilson tract and \$300 annually for the Perkins field. A purchase price of \$25,000 for the larger area and \$13,000 for the smaller one were fixed, the sums paid for rentals not to apply to the purchase, if the city decided to buy. The federal government paid \$57,984 in wages for the development of the field and the city laid out \$4740 for trucks and other expenses incidental to the work, which was done largely in 1934 and 1935.

The leases expired on March 31, 1939. As the Perkins lot could not be sold, as it developed, because of legal complications, the voters were asked at the spring election whether they wished to authorize city officials to buy the Wilson tract. The proposal was turned down by a vote of 3015 to 1394. At the time of the voting many persons contended that the field was not a suitable place upon which to land planes in spite of the large sum spent upon it.

A Rutland flyer, using a small plane and familiar with the terrain, has been landing and taking off from the south end of the Wilson field this week. The ground over much of the area is wet and soft, he said.

Excerpt from *Wings Over Vermont* by Robert Laird

1941.....Voters approve \$25,000 bond for purchase of Butler and Powers property in Clarendon for site of new airport initially named MacArthur Field. The Civil Aeronautics Authority grants \$422,000 for its construction.

1943.....October 18...MacArthur Field is officially turned over to the city, and Rutland finds itself in possession of a \$750,000 airport.

1969.....The State of Vermont acquires ownership of Rutland Airport in August.

1993.....The Rutland State Airport remains under the ownership and operation of the State of Vermont Agency of Transportation.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 5, 1937

WPA WOOD-CUTTING PROJECT TO CEASE

Mayor Says Federal Funds for Work exhausted; Too Costly to Continue

The wood-cutting project on forested areas of the city watershed, which was sponsored by the WPA, will not be continued the coming winter, it was learned yesterday. Mayor Henry H. Branchaud stated that the WPA program does not call for continuance of work of this type. He explained that the expense involved has been found to be heavy in comparison with the results obtained because of a large percentage of the laborers are not suited to swinging an axe.

The city has a sufficient supply of wood cut, however, to last the charity department for a year and other types of work will be found for the men who previously have been kept busy with saws and axes. There were 3170 cords of wood cut last season.

The present quota of WPA workers allowed to the city is 210 and this always is kept filled. There are some men on the waiting list from which a choice is made when a laborer finds work in private employment or quits a relief job for some other reason.

There is enough work in sight to keep the men now on the WPA rolls here busy for several months and the city has made application for funds to carry on other projects which, if approved by federal executives, would enable Commissioner of Public Works Edward L. Tracy to provide employment for a large force well into next season. The new work contemplated is largely connected with the general plan to improve the drainage system of the city, especially in the business district.

Shades of the after-storm of April 16, 2007!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, May 9, 1867

#412 May 16, 2007

Thought readers would find this tidbit interesting.

Exerpts from *History of Rutland Newspapers* by Chauncy K. Williams

1792, June 18th, *The Herald of Vermont* or *Rutland Courier*. Printed in Rutland every Monday morning by Anthony Haswell. Motto: "*Let Sentiment Flow Free, and Candour Guide. We own no Party and Espouse No side*" The printing office was destroyed by fire in September of 1792. On October 31st the legislature, then sitting in Rutland, passed an act granting a Lottery to Anthony Haswell to raise Two Hundred Pounds to repair the damages sustained by him on account of the destruction of his printing office by fire. The publication of the paper was never resumed.

1793, April 1st, *The Farmers Library*; or *Vermont Political and Historical Register*. A political and historical paper by J. Lyon, published every Monday. Motto: *The Freedom and Impartiality of the Press shall remain inviolate*. The last number was printed November 29th 1794, and was said to have been printed on paper made of equal proportions of rags and basswood bark.

1794, December 8th, *The Rutland Herald*; Or *Vermont Mercury*. Published on Mondays by S. Williams & Co. Motto: *In the Knowledge and Virtue of the People, the Freedom, the Energy and Permanency of the American Government have their Foundation*. In the first number the proprietors say: "As we have purchased of Mr. Lyon, Editor of the *Farmers Library*, the printing office, apparatus and privileges annexed by law to his paper, it will, for the future be carried on by the subscribers with the above title, under the direction of Dr. Williams". The proprietors of the paper were Samuel Williams (at that time Chief Judge of the County Court), and Rev. Samuel Williams, LL.D (who was the Editor).

1795, January--*The Rural Magazine* or *Vermont Repository*. A monthly magazine devoted to literary, moral, historical and political improvement. Printed by J. Kirkaldie for S. Williams & Co. Rev. Samuel Williams LL.D. Editor. Last issue was December 1796.

1802. *Vermont Mercury*, Rutland, Vermont. Published every Monday morning by Stephen Hodgman. Motto: *Let Party Zealots rage and madly write and swear that White is Black and Black is White: Ours be the nobler task to facts proclaim--Candour our guide and Truth our constant aim*. This paper ceased publication in 1804.

1808, July 25th, *Vermont Courier*, published in Rutland by Thomas M. Pomeroy. This paper ceased publication in 1810.

1848, August 29th, *Rutland Republican*, Published every Tuesday evening by Simeon Locke. Motto: *Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Labor and Free Men*. It is presumed that only six numbers were issued.

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1849, September, *The Vermont Union Whig*, A home newspaper for Vermont; Devoted in politics to National Union; In Literature to a purer taste. Published in Rutland and Brandon every Wednesday. William C. Conant Editor at Rutland; Samuel M. Conant at Brandon. Motto: *We shall exalt if they who rule the land be men who hold its many blessings dear--Wise, Upright, Valiant, not a venal band, who are to judge of danger which they fear, and honor which they do not understand--Wordsworth.* It is believed that the first steam printing press ever used in Rutland County was in connection with this paper. Used for the first time in printing of the first issue of the paper in Rutland.

1855, January. *The Guard of American Liberty*, Edited and published by H..F. Potter. Devoted to "Know-Nothingism." Only a few numbers were ever issued.

1857, August 12th, *The Rutland Courier*, Published every Friday morning by Cain & McLean. John Cain, Editor. This weekly continued until 1873.

1858, July, *What's the News*, An original monthly paper by William A. Bacon.

1861, April 29th, *Rutland Daily Herald*, Published every morning in season for the morning trains leaving Rutland. Printed and published by George A. Tuttle & Co. Evening edition occasionally published on receipt of news of great interest. Motto: *Let every American citizen, instead of crying Peace, Peace, when there is no Peace, rally upon the ramparts until Secession is silenced; until the roar of artillery has ceased.*

1866, July 21st, *Rutland County Independent*, Published every Saturday morning in season for the mails to all parts of the County by McLean & Robbins.

Of all the papers published up to 1867, *The Rutland Herald* was the one that survived.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

From scrapbook of poems

Sweet Memories

The folks up home are sugarin'
And gosh, how I'd like to be there.
Seems like I can smell the wood smoke
And the steam that sweetens the air.
Thirsty? Say, I'd give a lot
For a swig of ice cold sap.
A lot of others would too,
That know what trees to tap.

The folks up home are sugarin'
And today, how the sap will splash.
Likely they'll be boiling all night
Turning the run into cash.
Miss it? Say I'd like to start
Back to that place on the hill,
A lot of others would too,
If they could meet the bill.

The folks up home are sugarin'
But Gee, I can't be there for a day.
Probably they'll be sending me some sugar
And I'll be giving a lot away.
Like it? Say, I'd eat it all
If it wasn't for just one thing--
A lot of others are made happy
With the maple I get in the Spring.
March 7 1946 Benson Wells

After D Day

Five years have gone by.
Many still wonder why
Millions gave their all;
Thousands in hospitals recall
All the misery of the fight;
There was no rest day or night.
Diplomats are still debating,
And the world is still waiting
To know what it was all for,

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 26, 1940

Dyer School Is Remodeled

The Dyer school building, in the Town of Rutland, which was built more than 75 years ago, has just been remodeled at a cost of \$6573.17, it was announced yesterday by School Commissioners Mrs. Raymond C. Buck, Mrs. David Dickinson and Arthur W. Hawley.

The renovated building will be open to the public for inspection on Monday, beginning at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and continuing until 9 o'clock at night.

The school building, which has often been commended by the state department of education for its architectural value, was constructed under the direction of the late Horace Dyer, father of Col. Edward H. Dyer of Mill Village. The school is located near the corner of South Main Street and the Cold River Road, in the town of Rutland. The building afforded an unusually pleasant classroom in that it was well-lighted and high-ceilinged.

Mrs. John H. Kingsley of East Clarendon, the oldest known teacher of the Dyer School, taught there 60 years ago. She also is the oldest living graduate of Rutland High School.

In 1925, the Dyer school became a superior school and was one of the first in the state to be designated for the honor. According to the commissioners, the enrollment, six years ago, became too large for the care of one teacher, and transportation to other schools was resorted to. When the enrollment reached 45, the commissioners decided upon a plan for two classrooms.

In July 1938 the commissioners filed a request with the state director of the Work Project Administration for federal funds to remodel the school, and on July 18, 1939, the project was released. A well was dug, and a cement basement, 21 1/2 feet by 35 feet was built.

An additional classroom, modern in every respect, including a stage, was constructed. The new improvements include toilet facilities for both classrooms, drinking water, a hot air furnace and space for recreational activities in the basement.

According to a report made by the school commissioners the total cost of \$6573.17 for remodeling the school was received from the following sources: from the WPA for material and labor, \$3406.74, appropriated by the town school budget, \$2766.43 and state aid, \$400.

The improved building now has a capacity for housing 55 pupils.

Miss Dorothy Moran of North Clarendon, principal, is teacher of the four upper grades of the school and Miss Arlene Hinckley of West Street teaches the first four grades.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Update on the 1937 free parking lot on Edson Street.

Rutland Daily Herald, June 7, 1939

The fate of the free parking area at Willow and Edson Streets probably will be decided at a special meeting of the stockholders of the Rutland Development Corporation. The purpose of the meeting is to consider and decide some serious questions with respect to the continued operation of the parking area.

The free parking enclosure, designed principally for shoppers and other visitors to the city, came into existence two years ago. A caretaker has maintained the site most of the time. There are two important problems requiring solutions. What to do about the purchase of the remaining land now used in the parking area and what to do about providing money for the current maintenance of the area.

June 16, 1939: At a meeting held on June 9, the association voted to continue the parking place. It was stated at the meeting that the sum of \$157 must be raised to pay back rentals and besides, \$110 per month will be needed during the next year to cover necessary expenses.

February 17, 1940: In order to acquaint the public with the fact that a fee of 10 cents will be charged for leaving automobiles in the parking area at the intersection of Willow and Edson Streets, representatives of the Rutland Development Corporation placed notices in all automobiles of shoppers and others found parked in the business section, giving information as to the change in practice and the reasons for it.

Heretofore the parking area has been free, having been maintained by private subscriptions. There are no funds available to continue the free service and there are outstanding bills amounting to more than \$500. Starting Monday, February 19th, there will be a charge of 10 cents for each car. No time limit, and a caretaker will be in charge. It is estimated that this small charge will enable this service to continue.

February 20, 1940

A total of 38 drivers paid the 10 cent parking fee for leaving motor vehicles at the parking area. The caretaker stated that the average number of cars left in the area on Mondays when parking was free was about 80.

2007 update: From 10 cents to meters to \$3.00 per day

Today that parking area boasts a multi-level parking garage that was originally envisioned 70 years ago, in May of 1937.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Since we all love covered bridges, I thought all of you might like this one.

Grandpa's Tale of a Covered Bridge

Why did they cover the bridges
In the horse and buggy day?
Well now, to tell the truth, lad,
I never did hear them say;
It may have been for protection
From the rain and winter snows;
It may have been for a shelter,
I suppose nobody knows.
Whatever were their intentions
When the builders did their part,
Those old-time covered bridges
Have a warm place in my heart.

'Twas in the spring of eighty-three
When I was a callow youth,
I was a-courtin' the county belle,
And laddie, I'd learned the truth:
She was the only girl I knew
That I'd ask to be my wife;
But to reach the poppin' point--
I couldn't to save my life!
I was an awkward, bashful lad--
They were common in those days--
Hitty hadn't encouraged me,
Bein' trained to proper ways.

We were out one day a-ridin'
Behind my smart Morgan mare,
When a sudden shower o'ertook us,
But not a whit did I care.
I'd brought me a new umbrella
A-hopin' for such weather;
It was wide enough to cover two--
If they sat real close together.
Well--what did the blasted wind do
But whirl freakishly about?
It hoisted that new umbrella
And turned it wrong side out!

"Oh Tom, 'twill ruin my bonnet!"
Cried Hitty in real distress;
She wore a flowered head-gear
And full-flounced muslin dress;
"Now don't you worry, Hitty,
There's shelter over the ridge";
In less than thirty seconds
We were safe in the covered bridge.
I put my arm around her,
Feelin' brave and bold and free;
With fervid ardor I blurted:
"Marry, won't you Hitty me?"

The bridge seemed suddenly rockin',
I was ill with shame and dread,
I turned my shocked eyes upward--
A-straddle a beam o'erhead,
Sat my pesky younger brother
Laughin' in impish glee!
The rain had caught him out fishin'
And fate pulled a boner on me!
He told the tale to the neighbors,
They razzed me until I was sore!
The boys all "Hittied" me plenty
'Til a fist-fight evened the score.

I shied from meetin's with Hitty
'Til a letter filled me with bliss;
She wrote: "I hope you will pardon
My boldness in writing like this;
You started to ask me a question
That day, when we fled from the rain,
I've often puzzled and wondered--
I wish you would ask me again.
Tommy, why not come over,
When you have an evening to spare,
We'll discuss the matter quite fully--
There'll be no eavesdroppers there."

Yes, she is your grandmother Hitty--
We've never been tempted to part!
Now you know why old, covered bridges
Hold a warm place in my heart.

Inella C. Bates November 14, 1942

Tidbits From Then and Now

From the scrapbook of newspaper clippings
of poems by local people.

MY NATIVE HOME

I long to see my native home,
My native home again,
Beneath the old Green Mountains
On the shores of Lake Champlain.

It was there, beside my mother's
knee,
My childish prayers were said
And they are fresh in memory still
Though Mother long is dead.

I want to see the fields again,
All in their harvest sheen,
And breathe the air so fresh and
pure
From off the mountains green.

'Twas there my happy boyhood days
So free from care were spent,
And I must see it once again
Ere I can be content.

For now, as I am growing old
And time is fleeting by,
I fain would see that Home again,
Once more before I die.

Time perhaps has wrought a change
And strangers I may find;
But I must see the place once more
To satisfy my mind.

I'm going back--I'm going back
To see that home again
And place some flowers on that
mound
On the shores of Lake Champlain.

---Uncle Bill

West Rutland, August 22, 1930

HER IDEA OF A HUSBAND

What do I want in a husband?
I want him gentle and kind,
Neat and clean and healthy;
Strong in body and mind

Slow to find fault with his neighbor,
Quick to aid a friend;
One who is faithful and loving--
Whom can you recommend?

One who is not too loquacious,
Yet willing to do his part;
Fearless, sincere, and open,
With opinions that spring from the heart.

And may he consider the comfort of others
beside himself.

*(I can't seem to think of anything to rhyme
with himself except pelf or shelf, but
incidentally I could wish that he would not
smoke in bed, nor snore, nor swear very
much, nor scratch the furniture, nor sop up
his gravy, nor stand around in the way
telling silly stories, nor shout, nor slam
doors, or sulk.)*

-- Anna Hazel Billings

Rutland, Jan. 22, 1934

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 2, 1943

JAP SUBMARINE, TROPHY OF PEARL HARBOR, HERE TODAY

Residents of Rutland and vicinity whose indignation was aroused by the cowardly attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese Navy on December 7, 1941, will have an opportunity today to see one of the weapons which the Nipponese used in vain. To help in avenging the attack they will be able to purchase war bonds and stamps.

Homer Cornell, city war bond chairman, last night declared that there is additional incentive for Rutland residents to buy war bonds and stamps. By making the investment to see the foreign warship they can help to bring up the city's war securities sales total, which was \$35,906 short of quota for May. The goal set was \$128,700 but total sales aggregated only \$92,794.

The submarine to be shown, an 81-foot craft which was captured by the United States Navy before it had accomplished its mission, will be on view in Depot Park from noon until 3:20 o'clock this afternoon in connection with a nation-wide tour sponsored by the United States Treasury Department.

Hundreds of persons, many of whom already have secured tickets of admission to the exhibit by purchasing bonds or stamps, are expected to throng the park and adjoining streets. A committee headed by Frank J. Vennett, war activities chairman, has made arrangements so that all comers will have the opportunity to inspect the sub, which will be mounted on a platform.

The coming visit of the war relic has incited much interest in local industrial plants where war materials are being turned out. This is manifest, especially at the Lincoln Iron Works where \$1006 has been invested in stamps and bonds for tickets. Working hours will be staggered so that every employee who wishes to do so may get off to visit the exhibit.

Schools of the city will close at 1 o'clock so that pupils may inspect the war relic.

June 3, 1943

5000 VIEW JAPANESE SUB

More than 5000 persons bought war stamps and bonds in the amount of \$53,000 yesterday for the privilege of seeing the captured Japanese submarine which was exhibited in Depot Park for more than three hours in connection with its coast-to-coast tour for the purpose of spurring sales of the war securities.

The submarine, drawn by a tractor, arrived in the city from Burlington and Middlebury without any fanfare; there was no band music, no spectacular parade. None of these was needed for the reputation of the miniature war craft had gone before it and even before it was set up at the north

end of the park, several hundred persons were lined up along the adjoining streets, waiting to inspect it. The park was thronged until after the exhibit had been removed.

“Windows” were cut into the side of the sub so that two mannequins of Japanese naval men could be viewed. The submarine’s crew had no alternative except to blow themselves and their craft up with a demolition charge or surrender. The captain of the boat chose to swim ashore and give himself up at Pearl Harbor, but no one knows what became of the other two men. The submarine was captured by the United States Navy after it had been aground on a reef.

The Navy had removed the real torpedoes and substituted replicas of much lighter weight. The demolition charge was also removed. A description of the craft was given at intervals over the loud speaker during the exhibition.

Rutland was the 348th community in which the sub was shown. It was taken to the Midwest after touring New England.

[Notice in the picture background, the Honor Roll of Rutland men serving in WWII]

#419
W 420

Tidbits From Then and Now

September 23, 1942

STUDENTS PLY TORCH TO PREPARE CANNON FOR WAR'S MELTING POT

Dismantling of the German cannon, captured during World War I, which has been a fixture in City Hall Park for years, began early yesterday afternoon when a crew of apprentice welders from the National Youth Administration welding class at Rutland High School started to work on it with an electric carbon arc that went through the metal as though it were soft wood.

Under the direction of David Langlois, supervisor of the NYA project, who merely showed them how to start the job, the five young students cut the old field piece into chunks suitable for handling.

The cannon was donated to the scrap drive through the efforts of the American Legion. This organization was responsible for having the piece brought to Rutland in the first place, more than 20 years ago.

Donald Taylor, Richard Pellistri, John Leonard, John Kapitanski and Bert Pike were the five students on the job, each equipped with a welder's mask so that all could safely watch the bright arc even through only one could work at a time.

At first, large chunks were cut off, but the work kept on until all the pieces were small enough to be handled, shipped and used in the foundry. Langlois explained that pieces of the right size to be used for charging or putting directly into the melting furnaces are called "chargeable stock".

E. J. Fallon, in charge of personnel for the NYA in Vermont, said that there are old cannon and monuments all over the state that ought to be going back to the fighting front. If anyone were interested in donating the useless old things, the ones with no real historic value, it would be good practice for the welding apprentices and would certainly help toward winning the war.

A total of 16 boys were in the welding class, ranging in age from 17 to 20 years. The aim is to get the apprentices ready in three months to be able to hold down Navy Yard jobs in Boston or Brooklyn, N.Y. Classes were open to anyone in Vermont, young women as well as young men between 17 and 24.

Many calls came in from airplane factories for young women who could do acetylene welding. The NYA school guaranteed no jobs, but tried to train the students to be able to tackle them successfully.

It is also rumored that the dogs that stood at the entrance of the Baxter estate (where the Jr. High is located) were also shipped off to help the war effort.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 22, 1943

Aldermen Approve Report on Status of MacArthur Field, Adopt Resolutions

In a session which moved at a fast pace, the board of aldermen last night approved a report of the airport commission on the status of MacArthur airport and adopted resolutions appropriating funds for payment of salaries of the playgrounds personnel; the purchase of playground equipment and the payment of taxes on airport property to the town of Clarendon.

The first report of the Rutland airport commission, read to the board by the chairman, G.E. McLaughlin, expressed the belief that MacArthur field will, after the war, be visited by airliners and will play an important part in the economic life of Rutland. The report, prepared by McLaughlin, George C. Cobb and Carlton Wilson, airport commissioners, outlined in detail the post-war possibilities of the airport and stated that wartime conditions would prevent active operation of the field at the present and in the immediate future. The commission suggested, however, that the city must be ready to take advantage of the post-war aviation business and urged that, at the next city meeting, citizens be asked to vote upon a bond issue, to be used in the construction of a hanger. This hanger would be built when the situation justified. The \$425 appropriation for airport purposes includes \$324 for taxes to the Town of Clarendon and the remainder for a small operating fund for the airport commission.

Approval of the \$1,350 appropriation to pay the salaries of playground supervisors and employees was given at a previous meeting, but the resolution appropriating the money was adopted last night. In requesting the \$300 appropriation for the purchase of playground equipment, needed at once, Mayor Wayne N. Temple stated that it was the intention of the committee to raise the funds for the equipment from fraternal organizations. If the money is secured, it will replace the appropriation.

Upon the recommendation of the police committee composed of Aldermen McClallen, Rice and Simonds, the board voted to grant a two-week vacation to three police officers, recently made regulars, who have seen continuous duty for a year, and to grant them a five per cent increase payable at the end of the first year of service.

The committee, headed by Alderman Rice, named to investigate the problem of garbage disposal, created when a local garbage collector took off a truck from his routes, presented a report stating that, as a result of a public hearing, other collectors had made it known that they are willing to care for the residents of the city affected by the change.

Dr. Norman H. Cox, milk and meat inspector was present at the request of the board and explained an item in his last report relative to the finding of uninspected veal in a local meat market. The owner of the market had claimed that the veal was left in his cooler by a Mount Holly man who had no refrigeration. Investigation proved this to be true and the store owner obeyed an order that the meat be removed from the premises. The Mount Holly man called for

the meat in question. Dr. Cox stated that similar incidents had previously occurred in other markets and the proprietors had been instructed that they must not have uninspected meat in their possession.

Alderman Wiliam H. Foley brought up the question of the neglect of old cemeteries in the city and the matter is to be reported on at the next meeting.

Sounds like most of the more recent concerns for Rutland were around 64 years ago! The airport needs new service; the cemeteries need care; the Recreation Department Budget and even the police pay increments. Although, I do think the garbage and meat market problems have been solved.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 17, 1943

Flyer Lands At Airport

Pilot, Former Rutlander, Stops at MacArthur Field After Skimming Housetops Here.

Rutland's new airport had its first visiting plane of the year and citizens of this city and vicinity were given a big thrill Saturday when a plane, piloted by Lieut. Peter ValPreda, formerly of this city, circled over this vicinity for almost 20 minutes and then landed at MacArthur Field.

The plane, a big PT-18 of the type used as patrol bombers, landed easily on the new airfield and Lieut. ValPreda, who graduated from Mount St. Joseph Academy here, met and talked with a number of friends, before taking off for his base.

Lieut. ValPreda flew here from a southern base, where he is engaged in anti-submarine work as a leader of a squadron of the patrol bombers.

The plane came in over the city about 6 p.m. and circled slowly over the outlying districts, then flew over the business section.

With Lieut. ValPreda, the pilot, were six crew members. The plane was so low over the city that people in the streets and on the porches of their houses could see members of the crew waving greetings.

The silver-colored patrol bomber made a beautiful sight as it circled over the city like a great bird.

Lieut. ValPreda, whose home is in East Wallingford, was greeted at the airport by Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Barlow of Marble Avenue, parents of his wife, the former Charlotte A. Barlow, whom the young aviator married here in May, 1942.

He told Mr. & Mrs. Barlow that he had dropped some messages both in Rutland and in East Wallingford.

After about a 20-minute stop at the airfield, during which a small crowd gathered about the bomber, the plane took off for Albany, where Lieut. ValPreda and his crew intended to have dinner. They planned to be at their base before midnight.

Using the new north-south runway at MacArthur field, the big plane took off easily. In the take-off, the plane needed only about one-third of the 4000-foot runway.

It was the third plane to have landed at the field, two others making emergency landings there.

Lieut. ValPreda was recently awarded the Air Medal for his anti-submarine work.

June 4, 1943

See Success For Airport

The Rutland Airport Commission received a letter from United States Senator George D. Aiken, an aviation enthusiast, predicting a successful future for MacArthur field.

Senator Aiken said the chances for establishment of a flight school for the training of aviation cadets is at present quite remote. He pointed out that the Navy has recently closed down a large number of flight schools, as has the Army, the present plan being to use larger schools. Looking into the future, Senator Aiken believes that after the war, the airport may become "one of the busiest places in the state."

It was also noted that the Army had withdrawn a \$500,000 appropriation as three 5000 foot runways could not be built on the present site. Senator Aiken pointed out, however, that the Civil Aeronautics Authority had assured him that the present airport was suitable for civil aviation.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 25, 1943

Century-old Newspapers Found In Partitions of G. H. Ross House

The discovery of a bundle of timeworn newspapers in the old G. H. Ross house, recently torn down at the corner of West and Nichols Streets included copies of the Castleton Statesman of the year 1840. Over a century old, the papers were found within the attic partitions. The Statesman, which published for 21 years as a weekly, was discontinued in 1845.

The old landmark, familiar to Rutlanders for more than a century and a half, is to be rebuilt after the war by its new owner, Dr. J. Malcolm MacDonald of South Main Street.

Testifying as to how well homes were built in the late 1700s, white haired John A. Craig, veteran contractor who pulled the house down alone, said yesterday: "It was quite a job to take it apart for several reasons--it was in good condition, and it was well built--I never saw a house built like it."

Craig sold much of the flooring, studding and boards, not for kindling, but for use in other buildings. "I couldn't give it away when I tried at first," he said, "but I finally sold it all."

"All the timbers above the sills were in nearly perfect condition although the sills naturally showed a little rot. They must have kept a good roof on it." Craig commented. "The flooring I sold was an inch and a half in thickness, unheard of nowadays, tongue and grooved, and held down with wrought iron, hand-made nails. The wall lathing was half an inch thick. It was split throughout with an axe so the plaster would clinch it."

Two timbers which now remain on the site indicate how solid the frame was. Twenty-six feet long and 14 1/2 by eight inches in other dimensions. They are pine wood, with hardly a knot in them. All of which Craig states is unusual. The frame was dove-tailed together and the walls were bricked between the studding.

Many passers-by have taken interest in the aged wrought iron, hand-fashioned nails of the period. It is thought the iron may have come from an old mine, several of which were worked in this region. An old iron furnace in Pittsford was in operation in 1790, according to county records.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 28, 1868

During the past few months, our citizens have watched the progress of the building of the "Opera House", with great gratification that Rutland was at an early date to be furnished with a hall to which only entertainments of the first class could be given that would draw all of our citizens, affording ample and commodious accommodation.

Rutland is indebted for this magnificent enterprise to the public spirit of our honored fellow citizen, Hon. William Y. Ripley, Esq. As a people, we should take pride that there resides in our midst gentlemen of culture and lovers of the finer graces of art, that has led them to appreciate the present and prospective wants of our growing community, leading them to build an edifice which is an ornament to the town and affords a resort for the cultivation of the more elegant tastes of a community and, where a high order of amusements and popular lectures can be enjoyed without the interruptions that have been so consequent in the places of public assembling, that have disgraced our town.

The new Opera Hall is to be dedicated on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings of this week by Parepa Rosa and her eminent troupe of artists, and the occasion, judging from the number of tickets now sold, will call together a large concourse of our citizens, as well as residents from neighboring towns.

For the accommodation of those desiring to hear the distinguished Parepa Rosa, the Rutland Railroad Company has made arrangements whereby they are enabled to arrive in town from the north in time for the concerts on Tuesday and Wednesday. We understand that the Bennington and Rutland road intend running an extra train; arriving in time for the entertainment and returning at its close.

December 29, 1868: It is perhaps proper to say that there seems to be an impression abroad that concerts are to be entirely operatic and too difficult for popular appreciation; but this is a mistake. We understand that owing to the rush for tickets during the first two days, many, both in and out of town, are laboring under the idea that the tickets are all disposed of. We know, however, that a number of good seats are still to be had by calling at N.V. Brooks' music store. There ought to be no vacant seats on these opening nights. The large sum paid this troupe (\$1000) per night) requires a full house to even pay expenses. Our friends out of town need not experience any fears but what they will receive a good seat if they should choose to attend.

December 30, 1868: The dedication of the Rutland Opera House, last evening, by the Parepa Rosa troupe was crowned with the success which it so well deserved. The hall was nearly filled by a highly respectable and appreciative audience, who testified to the excellence of the various performances by the most enthusiastic applause. The Dedication March, by our talented townsman, Mr. George Meitzke was received with that degree of appreciation which it so eminently deserved.

December 31, 1868: The appearance in our midst of talented artists has given the people a taste of the higher order of musical art and talent, which has delighted everyone and will create a desire for more of that style of music, which breathes in all its renderings an air of culture and art. The opening of the Rutland Opera House has been a great success so far as the high order of the entertainment was concerned, and by the class of citizens who have indicated by their presence their approval and patronage.

[Build it and they will come. Maybe!]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 7, 1939

"The Whippet," the Rutland Railroad's new crack freight train, will be christened at an elaborate ceremony at the passenger station today by Miss Rosemary Thompson, daughter of Locomotive Engineer and Mrs. Milton Thompson of Lincoln Avenue. Hundreds of persons are expected to attend the affair.

A veteran crew including Engineer Charles H. Thompson, B. J. Whitaker, fireman, E. L. Harrington, conductor and C.C. Morris, brakeman, will pilot the crack freight over its initial run from Bellows Falls to northern New York. Every industrial traffic manager in the United States received an invitation to the dedication. In all, 4000 of them were sent out.

Rutland Daily Herald, January 9, 1939

Large Crowd Attends Christening of Rutland Railroad's New Fast Freight

Sleek in black paint and silver trim, "The Whippet," the Rutland Railroad's renewed bid for freight supremacy in Vermont, made its appearance Saturday afternoon in dedication ceremonies which attracted a huge crowd to the bunting-draped platform in Depot Park.

The crowd overflowed the park into Evelyn Street and Merchants Row. Every available window space in neighboring buildings was occupied during the brief ceremonies which began at 3 o'clock and ended less than an hour later, when R. F. Bohman, traffic expert, hired recently by the road, made the concluding speech.

Speeches by Mayor Henry H. Branchaud, Albert A. Cree, president of the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, Leon S. Gay of Cavendish, president of the Rutland Railroad Co-operating Traffic Association, Luis G. Morphy, receiver for the road and Bohman, comprised the brief program.

The actual dedication of the train followed Cree's brief address. Dressed in a gray fur coat and carrying a bouquet of American Beauty roses, Miss Rosemary Thompson mounted a platform near the track and broke a bottle of champagne over the engine. The crowd cheered and whistled as she spoke the dedicatory words: "For the Rutland Railroad I christen you, "The Whippet."

A somber note of warning that the road has not as yet mastered its financial difficulties was injected into the atmosphere of enthusiasm which characterized the dedication. Characterizing rumors that the railroad kept a "secret set of books," as "childish propaganda," Bohman set out to dispel any notions that the railroad had succeeded in solving its difficulties. He recalled that the railroad had enjoyed only a small portion of New England's freight service in the past "because of its inferior service." He explained at this point that he did not intend his statement as an indictment of the management. "The Whippet," he declared would be the first big answer to the problem in that it would "cut down our running time to the west by 24 hours."

Leon Gay, in his brief speech asked for further economy in operations, lower taxes, a readjustment of the capital structure and increased revenues. Receiver Morphy added his wishes for the success of the new freight service and expressed the road's indebtedness to the various communities for the efforts they made to aid the road.

Mayor Branchaud spoke briefly as did Cree. Fearing near-zero temperatures, the committee arranging the dedication stationed the Mount St. Joseph's Academy 60 piece band on the third floor of the Clement building. Their precautions were needless, however, because of the thaw.

Amplifiers carried the words of the speakers to the crowd and the listeners ensconced in the windows of nearby buildings. United States Judge Harland B. Howe and many of the railroad's officials occupied the platform as did the representatives of several Vermont and out-of-state newspapers.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 24, 1936

Calf Thriving Although Skin is Bare of Hair

In a barn on the East Proctor Road, standing on wobbly legs or lying on the floor, is a bull calf as pink as a new-born baby. The reason for the unusual color is that the calf is practically hairless, protected from the incredulous gaze of its stablemates only by a shiny skin as bare and smooth as that of a child. The pink youngster is less than a week old.

Last Sunday, Alfred Walker, who works on the farm of David Dickinson in the Town of Rutland, was walking in a pasture with his young son when they were halted by the sight of the hairless animal which was trying desperately to look fierce. Unalarmed by the hostility, but amazed by the color, Walker returned to report his find to Dickinson.

The bull calf shares a stable with many other young bovines and spends much time shivering as the breeze blows in the windows onto its bare skin. Except for the absence of hair, the calf is a healthy and normal offspring of two normal Guernseys. There seems to be no explanation of the abnormality.

The young bull has strong legs, a good voice and a fine pair of blue-brown eyes. But of hair there is practically none at all, merely a tuft or two in the ears, a scarcely-perceptible fuzz on the shoulders, a fringe on the chest and a tassel on the tail.

The bare skin is wrinkled and soft. When the sun strikes it from the right angle it shines brightly. Walker said he saw a similar four-year-old cow at the Rutland Fair two or three years ago. But this is the first time he ever has come across such a strange youngster and he expects it will be the last.

#426
7-22-07

Tidbits From Then and Now

From scrap book of poems etc.

SNOWLESS WINTER

I have heard of boneless turkeys,
Yes, p'raps that may be so.
But I never saw a winter
In Vermont without some snow.

Well for one I won't be sorry
If Jack Frost don't poke around.
That long nose of his may burrow
Good six feet deep underground.

Still an' all I kind o'worry
What is keeping him so late.
Bet the customs at the border
Went to work and shut the gate!
I remember when a youngster
Often heard the old folks saying
That we didn't have much winter
Less'n a hundred days of sleighing.

Yes, it don't seem quite so natural,
But there's two long months to go.
And perhaps before they're ended
We'll have lots of ice and snow.

Don't seem now as though the winters
Was much like they used to be.
Hope, by Joe, the time is coming
When no frost or snow we'll see.

'Course we'd like a little sugar
And it's very well we know
It's no use to try and get it
'Less there's lots of frost and snow.

Then we got to fill the ice house
So's to have a nice cold drink.
And we know we cannot get it
From the faucet in the sink.

Kind of hard upon the youngsters
With no snow to try their sled.
And the skates they got for Christmas--
Well, they're underneath the bed.

No, sir. I am not a-whining
'Cause somehow I seem to know
I'll be waking up some morning
To behold three feet of snow!

--Uncle Bill

West Rutland, Jan. 28, 1932

Remember last January-----75 years later in 2007?

#427
8/23

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, March 8, 1888

Rutland County Fairs

History of the Agricultural Society and Black Hawk's Introduction

Excerpts from a letter to the Editor of the Rutland Herald

Every person in the County is to some degree interested in the Rutland County Agricultural Society, but few have the least conception of its origin. In the winter of 1845, at the call of several prominent men in the County, a meeting convened at the old Town House in Castleton, composed of the representative men of the County--such men as Ward M. Lincoln, Jesse Hinds, Dr. Dana, D.W.C. Clark of Brandon; Col. Wheaton, Judge Kellogg, Dan Bogue, S.D. Winslow of Pittsford; Maj. G.T. Hodges, John Cain, James Barrett, Colonels Brown, Blanchard and Mead of Rutland; Alex. Newton, Deacon F. Button, W. L. Marsh of Clarendon; A. Hull, Robinson Hale, Munson and Noble Hill of Wallingford. It is thought that Major G.T. Hodges was president of the first meeting.

The first question discussed was, "Do we need such a society? Will it be beneficial?" There was a unanimous feeling that such a society be organized. Various committees were appointed to formulate plans, draft a constitution and report at a meeting to be held at the same place in two weeks. At that meeting reports were made; a society perfected as far as it could be and officers elected. The meeting then adjourned to meet at the Court House in Rutland where the details were arranged and judges appointed.

The first fair was held in Castleton in September of 1845, on the ground where now stands the house of Mrs. R.A. Jackman, then owned by B. F. Langdon. It was at this fair that the celebrated horse Black Hawk was first shown to the public. He was exhibited by Noble Hill's brother. Mr. Rounds saw him, was in love with him and had a mare at the track. This was the origin of the celebrated horse Highland Gray.

The fair was a perfect success. This was long before the days of railroads. Imagine the wagons it would take to bring 2000 people to the fair. The society at their annual meeting designated the place for holding the next fair. Most of the time they alternated between Rutland and Castleton. Castleton was nearer the center of inhabitants and tillable land, while Rutland was nearer the geographical center. The fairs were held once at Brandon and once at Poultney. Agriculture and mechanics took quite a start from it. Horses have ever been prominent in all the shows of the society. G.D.S. Castleton, VT.

#428
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Tidbits From Then and Now

From scrapbook of poems by local people

Uncle Bill At the Fair

Went to the Rutland fair;
It was an ideal day.
Somehow I seemed to get the urge
And couldn't stay away.

And when Old Sol he got het up
I hiked it for the shade
And when I got real thirsty
I drank red lemonade.

I met some old-timers and
To me they did look good,
And the gentlest cow I ever saw
Was the one made out of wood.

She looked so gosh-durn natural
The dogs at her did bark.
And the cop said "Whay! Move on, old gal;
This ain't no place to park!"

I smashed a green tomato
On the darkie's curly head
And got a cabbage-leaf cigar
That nearly killed me dead.

I made quite a stay down on Midway
And took in many sights
And saw some very perty girls
All dressed up in tights.

I win a durn nice blanket
All striped in blue and white
And had to lug the thing around
From two till nine at night.

And so I stayed and poked around
Till the last shot it was fired
And then I started out for home,
But oh, boy! I was tired.

And so I spent my last durn cent
But I didn't shed a tear
And to you I'll tell if all is well
I'll go again next year.
---Uncle Bill

Rutland 1931 Fair

I went to the Rutland Fair
On a bright and sunny morn.
I'll be there again next year
As sure as you are born.

I didn't see the wooden cow
Uncle Bill told about.
Although I drank red lemonade
All I saw was a trout.

Nor did I win a blanket
Or even take a chance
But sneakin' through the back fence
I tore my Sunday pants.

When I reached the race track
There was a grand parade
And across from there in the grandstand
Sat William in the shade.

Take it altogether
It's a dollar to a sou
She's going to break the record
In nineteen thirty-two.
---William Waters

West Rutland, Oct. 3, 1931

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 11, 1937

YOUNG INVENTOR CREATES ROBOT TO HELP PARK AUTOS

Harley Davidson, 16, of Park Street, Fashions "Robert" From Many Spare Parts

Robert the robot gave a final shake of his paint-bucket head, a last wave of his pasteboard arm, closed his tin mouth and stood silent on his two by four plank feet. Someone had pulled the light switch.

Robert is a gentelman of parts---spare parts, that is---who constantly waves Fair visitors into a parking space adjoining the Park Street home of his inventor, 16-year-old Harley Davidson, a Rutland High School junior.

Robert is a week old, sturdily constructed of cardboard, wood, nuts and bolts. He wears a natty suit of gray paint, has a pair of discarded radiophones for ears, an old paintpot for a head and black eyes painted on paper. He is nearsighted apparently, for he wears a pair of glasses.

Young Davidson tenderly tied the hanging tin lips to the robot's gaping mouth with a piece of ribbon and explained that the indefatigable Robert lived on a voltage which he digested through a small motor in his back connected to a long light cord stretched from the Davidson residence. His name is the result of Harley's realization of the alliterative possibilities of Robert the Robot.

Although Robert cannot walk he has a brother still in the blueprint stage who will take long strides as well as wave his arms and nod his head.

Cardboard, paint pail, radiophones and an electric motor are the parts from which Harley Davidson of Park Street, 16-year-old high school junior, created Robert to ease his aching arm during fair week by sharing the work of attracting motorists to his parking field.

#429
in as 430

Tidbits From Then and Now

From scrapbook of poems by local people

Little Country School

I wandered back again today to where long years gone by
I started out to go to school to learn the reason why
That two and two made four and why the earth goes round and round,
And why the apples ripe with age come tumbling to the ground.

And why the tide comes in at night and goes out in the morn,
And why the stars shine in the night, and disappear at dawn,
And why in summer it is hot, and wintry winds blow cold,
And all the things a child must learn; the things they must be told.

The little building made of stone, a hundred years ago;
Stands straight and true as when 'twas built, through rain and hail and snow.
Although the hands that fashioned it have long since gone to rest
They left a monument behind; their memory will be blest.

I stepped within the open door, and o'er the threshold worn
By children rushing in and out, by many long since gone.
The sight that met my eyes, brought back fond memories of yore
When I was numbered with the lads that traveled through that door.

The sheet-iron stove that many years had in the corner stood,
And threw tremendous heat when filled with body maple wood
Was red with rust and falling down, the stove pipe hanging low.
Their days of usefulness are gone, no more with heat they glow.

The wooden blackboard on the wall, still hung by home-made hooks,
Reminded me of lickings when we copied from our books.
I found the little wooden bench, on which I used to sit;
I found some letters cut thereon which my initials fit.

The little corner where we stood with our face against the wall
When we were caught a-whispering, or threw a paper ball.
The shelf on which was kept the wooden water pail,
And over it the dipper, suspended by a nail.

I found the tree 'neath which we sat at noon to eat our lunch.
The swimming pool close hand by, where we took our daily plunge.
No more within the schoolhouse yard do children romp and play.
By modern methods they're conveyed to the village far away.

Perhaps this system is the best, but history will show
That many noble minds were trained in these schools of long ago.

---Dr. A. W. Farnsworth Rutland, 1946

Many know, but some do not--- Dr. Farnsworth was the actress Betty Davis' father-in-law.

Tidbits From Then and Now

CALLING ALL PICO RACEWAY FANS

Excerpts from the Rutland Herald

July 3, 1951, **Trio Plans To Operate Stock Car Race Track**

A half mile dirt track has been surveyed and staked out back of Abe Newman's ranch on South Main Street [Now the location of GE]. Newman, Geno N. Franzoni and Pasquale Romano announced plans yesterday for nighttime stock car racing there. The trio will petition the town of Rutland for permission to schedule Sunday stock car races, but will make further plans for development of a 100-acre plot while securing legal sanction for the races. If Rutland Town citizens approve the petition, construction of bleachers and work on the track will start soon. Tentative plans include an early August opening date.

July 9th, **Trio to Petition For Stock Car Racing Permit**

A petition for approval of stock car racing in Rutland Town will be submitted to town selectmen by Geno N. Franzoni, Abe Newman and Pasquale Romano at a meeting scheduled for the Center Rutland schoolhouse.

July 11th, **Early Decision On Stock Car Racing Expected**

Decision on a stock car racing promotion planned for South Main Street may result from a meeting of Rutland Town selectmen. The selectmen ordered Geno N. Franzoni, Pasquale Romano and Abe Newman to present diagrams and other descriptive data on their racing venture. It was also requested that the trio file a formal petition for a stock car racing permit.

July 17th, **Pico Raceway Given Charter in Montpelier**

The three incorporators of the Pico Raceway, Inc., filed articles of association today with the secretary of state. The organization indicated it intends to conduct races, sponsor amusements, entertainment, sell food and operate a recreational and athletic park. Its capital stock consists of 100 shares of \$100 common stock.

July 18th, **Auto Racing OK Granted**

A license for week-day automobile racing in Rutland Town was granted to the Pico Raceway, Inc., by the board of selectmen of that town. Petitions will be circulated in the town seeking the necessary signatures of five per cent of the voters to ask for a special election to vote on Sunday racing. Sheriff Geno N. Franzoni, one of three incorporators of the Pico Raceway, Inc., said that excavation in preparation for construction of the track had already been started. He said racing will not be conducted until after the special election and a permit to operate on Sundays is

assured. At a meeting of the corporation Abe Newman was elected president, Sheriff Franzoni was named treasurer and Pascal Romano was named clerk.

July 24th, **Rutland Town To Vote On Races August 9**

Rutland town voters will decide August 9 whether or not they want Sunday stock car racing at a track under construction on the Abe Newman farm south of Rutland. The track will employ between 30 and 35 people, according to County Sheriff Geno N. Franzoni, treasurer of the corporation. Franzoni said four trucks and a bulldozer are working at the speedway location now. He said the first race will be held August 12, three days after the town election, if voters approve the racing.

July 25th, **Push Work On New Raceway South of City**

Construction of a grandstand to seat some 2000 stock car racing fans is slated to start Monday. The raceway site was a beehive of activity yesterday as 11 men, six trucks, three power-driven shovels and a bulldozer carved their way into a hillside that was once part of an oat field. Work on the 100-acre tract is well underway under the direction of the promoters and contractor Frank J. Fabian of Fair Haven. Temporary rest rooms are under construction, while work on the half-mile oval is also progressing. The track will be 50 feet wide on the straightaways, 65 feet on the turns and will be banked. Present plans also call for a parking lot northwest of the grandstand site, a judge's stand and first aid station inside the oval and a new hard-surface entrance to the raceway from Route 7.

August 10th, **Sunday Races Approved : Rutland Town Voters OK Stock Car Shows on Sabbath by 125-64 Tally**

Pico Raceways, Inc., immediately announced that 40 stock car drivers have been signed for the first Sunday racing program now set for August 19. By that date a grandstand to seat 1500 spectators will be completed on the Newman property and the half-mile oval is expected to be ready.

August 18th, **Postponed**

The opening of the Pico Raceway scheduled for Sunday has been postponed until a week from Sunday because inclement weather has made it impossible to get the track in shape for an August 19 opening.

August 27th, **4000 at Opening Of Pico Raceway Stock Car Track**

This picture shows the crowd of 4000 watching the first race at the Pico Raceway.

The Rutland Historical Society invites anyone who remembers, wants to know about, or is interested in stock car racing to attend a free "round table" discussion of the Pico Raceway to be held at the Rutland Historical Society on Saturday, 6 October at 10:00 a.m.

#432

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, September 25, 1931

CITY EMPLOYEES GO ON FIVE-DAY WEEK

Following the custom set by other cities this year, the public works and water departments of the city of Rutland have adopted a "five-day" working week, in order that men, who otherwise would be thrown out of employment, may work continuously to support their families.

In commenting on the new plan, Richard H. Royce, commissioner of public works stated that at least 20 men, who otherwise would have been forced to be idle, will be able to work during the coming winter season.

Although the plan may cause some hardships for a number of city employees, it is thought that to give 20 men employment, who otherwise might be obliged to appeal to the city for aid, will overbalance all inconvenience.

The "five day" working week has been adopted successfully in other cities in Vermont and New England. Mayor James Curley of Boston advocated the "five day" week for the public works department in the Hub. At the present time the city employs 120 men in the public works and water departments.

Public Works Program

There are several major projects which the city will undertake during the coming months. The covered bridge on West Street, which has stood for many years, will be replaced by a reinforced concrete structure. The old bridge is delapidated and is considered unsafe for heavy loads.

A number of men will be given employment in the construction of the trunk line sewer into East Creek, which will relieve poor drainage conditions to Meadow, School, Forest and other streets. The work which has already been started has been hampered by the rains of the past few days.

Work of cleaning out the city reservoir was completed. It was planned to finish the task earlier, but the water was very low and the streams, feeding the pond, were far below normal. Not wishing to take any chance of emptying the reservoir and causing a fire hazard in Rutland, the work was postponed until the recent rains raised the water in the streams.

All sidewalks, petitioned for this year, will be built providing weather permits. All of the petitions have been taken care of up to two weeks ago.

The stone quarry in Pine Hill has been in constant operation all summer and there is a crew of men still working there.

Later in the fall several streets are to be improved. They will be widened and graded and made ready for gravel surface. Ledges in the streets will be removed to permit the work to be done, if it is found necessary. The street work can be done during the winter.

The Commissioner is planning for the work to be done in Pine Hill by unemployed men. After making an examination of the Pine Hill property, he found that there is opportunity for plenty of work on the 249-acre tract.

Even during the depression there was concern for the welfare of the working man's family.

Trees are being felled on Pine Hill at the present time, is there any arrangement for people who heat with wood to collect some of the wood that will just stay and deteriorate? Or, with all the hiking trails through these woods, could this be a possible fire hazard?

#434
may 133

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Historical Society's column "Tidbits From Then and Now" has been in Sam's Good news for eight and a half years. The information for the articles is reaped from many sources, courtesy of the Rutland Historical Society (of course!).

As many people have asked where I get my material for the articles, I began to wonder how many people realize what goes on at the Society and what resources are there for the public and how the public can have access to these resources. So, this article is meant to enlighten those of you who want to know what is there.

The Society building is at 96 Center Street. It was built in 1860 as a fire station and remained such until the Society occupied the building in 1993. It was called the Nickwackett Station, Nickwackett means "place of the squirrel" [That's why you now see a big squirrel taking part in the parades].

There are Rutland Village & City directories from 1867 - 1986; local church histories and records; Municipal Court records; extracts from early Probate Court records as well as cemetery records and some marriage records. Many genealogists and family researchers make use of these.

There are photo collections from glass plates and photographers past and present; individual family papers and books (ex. the library of Rev. Lemuel Haynes; the works and letters of Julia Dorr; Ripley family papers, photos and books).

Maps of Rutland range from 1771 to 1925. The collection of various Rutland newspapers dates back to 1848. Many might be interested to know that there are Rutland Public School registration books dating from 1899-1915, 1920-1963 [You might find your parents and even grandparents listed with their classmates and teachers]. There are also school year books and newspapers.

Artifacts that have occasionally been on display include the Livingston Southwest Indian collection; a silver collection from local silversmiths; two restored stained glass windows from the GAR Memorial Hall (where the Post Office now stands) and the two working, numbered clocks, one made by Lord & Goddard and the other made by Goddard right here in Rutland.

The newest pride of the Rutland Historical Society is its web site at rutlandhistory.com that was put on line in February of 2005. Last year the site received over a quarter-million visits and has received research inquiries from as far away as Australia and England. We even received a request for the purchase of a publication from Japan.

Learn more about the treasures of the Rutland Historical Society at the annual meeting at 7:30 PM, Thursday October 18th at Fellowship Hall of the Grace Congregational Church. Chuck Piotrowski will be making a special powerpoint presentation featuring photos of some of these treasures. There will be a reception at 5:30 PM and a "potluck" supper at 6:00. Members and

non-members are invited to attend the reception and supper. Call Helen Davidson at 773-7525 to indicate your attendance and the dish you wish to bring.

Come visit the Society on Saturdays from 1-4 PM or Monday evenings from 6-9 PM. and explore some of its treasures.

#433
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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, September 28, 1931

WORLD INVITED TO TRAMP LONG TRAIL

Governor Stanley C. Wilson of Vermont directed his radio speech over station WBZ to a description of the Long Trail, its history, and the ease with which it may be followed. At the conclusion he said:

"There is not really dangerous climbing. There are no treacherous precipices to scale, no dizzy heights to cause danger of falling, no ropes or insecure ladders. The trail goes up and down over mountain after mountain, but makes its way by reasonable grades and it has been planned with care.

"To enjoy the beauty and interest one does not need to be an experienced mountain climber or to go through a course of physical training. It is the kind of outing that can be undertaken by anyone in ordinary health. Many of the lesser animals of the woods---porcupines, deer, squirrels and countless birds may be seen. There is no danger from large wild animals.

"At no place on the trail is it many miles down to a regular highway and the habitation of man. In a word, the Long Trail offers the combination of safety, of apparent wilderness remoteness and actual accessibility. That which 1500 men and women have selected and developed for a health giving and enjoyable recreational endeavor is worthy of consideration for a vacation that will be different from any other.

"The next few weeks in Vermont are the best of all if one wants to see the beauties of nature. It is not too late for tramping for the cooler weather makes it more enjoyable and the nights will not be cool enough to be uncomfortable.

"If you want to tour by auto, the roads will not be crowded as in the summer. Moreover, construction work will be practically ended for the season so there will not be much annoyance from detours or rough travelling. The roads will be at their best and tourists can be assured of welcome and enjoyment.

"The Vermont forests are beginning to take on their glorious autumn colors. Dashes of red are appearing among the greens. Soon the hills and mountains will be a blaze of glory. If you have never seen this great color show that nature puts on, you ought to drive up and see it. If you have seen it before, I don't need to urge you, for you will want to see it again.

"I have seen Niagara Falls several time, but I never tire of the sight. So it is with autumn in Vermont. I have had to miss it a few times and every year that this has happened, I have felt that so much of the joy of living has been lost. We do not have great man made spectacles in Vermont very often, but nature gives us of her best. I invite you to share with us the glories that the great out-of-doors world has set before our eyes in Vermont, a state unspoiled."

Tidbits From Then and Now

A History of the Halloween Parade (Thanks to Betty Mumford)

The 1960s

During the early years, beginning in October of 1960, the highlight of the parade was "Batman." Rutland schools had individual school parties and a trophy was given to the school with the most student/parent participation in the parade. The parade began with blasts from the fire whistle. Starting from Main Street Park, the parade went down Center Street to Merchants Row and back to Main Street Park. Dan Healy was Mayor at this time.

In 1961 Dean Rippon was the first Jack O'Lantern and Christ The King School was the winner of the school trophy for participation and attendance. Jack Daley was the Mayor. In 1962 The parade was canceled because of rain. A teen dance was held at the Armory with 1,000 teens participating. In 1963 the route was changed from Merchants Row to Washington St., over Wales to West Street to Merchants Row. Dana School was the winner of the school trophy. In 1964 Central figures were "Batman" and "Batgirl". 1965 was the first year of the "Pumpkin Princess Contest" and Eileen Keenan was selected. Christ the King won the trophy. Harold Nichols was the Mayor. In 1966 Pumpkin Princess was Crystal Trepanier. A poster painting contest was held this year rather than painting on Merchants Row store windows. Lucy Doane was the Jack O'Lantern. The 1967 Pumpkin Princess was Joan White. Ralph Smith, DJ from WHWB, was O'Lantern. A guessing game was devised and clues published in the newspaper to find out who would be O'Lantern. Winners identifying O'Lantern would be awarded a prize. In 1968 Kathy Gilligan was Pumpkin Princess and O'Lantern was John Hanson, a local attorney. The Poster Contest was also held. In 1969 Comic Book personalities from New York, including "Flash" and "Spiderman" were featured. Bruce Wing was O'Lantern. This was the first year of Marvel Comic Book Characters.

The 1970s

1970 was a great year. Marvel Comics featured the Rutland parade in their October issue and 30 Superheros and Superheroines came to participate in the parade from Marvel Comics. O'Lantern was Fred Carbine, City Attorney, and Candi Thomas was Pumpkin Princess. A new trophy, "Best Float in the Parade" was presented to Rutland 4-H Clubs. In 1971 Nick Marro, a Rutland Herald reporter, was Mr. O'Lantern, Ester Chartrand was Pumpkin Princess. National Periodical Publications and Marvel Comics took part in the parade. Writers dressed the parts. Stories appeared in Batman Comics and The Defenders Comics featuring the Rutland Parade. In 1972 National and Marvel Comics again featured comics with stories of Rutland's parade. Tara Van Wyck was Queen. Judge Howard Douglas was O'Lantern. Park Street School took the trophy for Best Float. Thomas Fagan was awarded the "Ed Apprill Award" for a person who contributed most to the comic field who was not a writer. There were 60 marching units in 1973. Former Lt. Governor & Mayor Jack Daley and his wife Mary were the O'Lanterns. Comic characters were still participating. Best Float went to Sugar Maple Day Care Center. In 1974 Karen VanWyck was chosen Queen. Henry Brislin, Grand Juror, was O'Lantern. In 1975 the Pumpkin Princess was

Martha Kulig. Not as many comic book characters were involved this year. Alex Dunn of WSYB was O'Lantern. The 1976 parade was postponed to November 1st because of rain. Al Grazini, Rutland policeman, was O'Lantern and Laurie Audy was Queen. The 1977 honors went to Lynn Stukoski, Queen, Bob Drzewiczewski, Sports Editor of the Rutland Herald who was O'Lantern. and the Best Float was from Shrewsbury Elementary School. In 1978 Paul Bienvenue, businessman, was Mr. O'Lantern. The Queen was Mary Harte. The Best Float was Shrewsbury Elementary School. In 1979 Fire Chief Richard Barron was O'Lantern. The Superheros were back for first time in five years. Martha Hurcomb was Queen.

The 1980s

In 1980 Myles Pratico, local florist, was O'Lantern. Pam Bordeau, Miss Teenage Vermont, led the parade. The Best Float was Mill River Union High School. In 1981 Bob Richardson, Program Supervisor of the Recreation Department, was O'Lantern. Kelly Carabeau was Queen. The Best Float was from Mill River. In 1982 William Bloomer, City Attorney, was O'Lantern. Karen Pawlaczyk was Queen. This year a party was started at the Loyal Order of Moose for all parade participants. The Best Float was from Mill River. In 1983 Ethel Sterns was Mrs. O'Lantern. Sara Welch was Queen. The Best Float was from the Vermont Achievement Center. This year Proctor High School entered the parade.

Dan Healey, former Mayor, who rode in the 1960 parade, was featured in the 25th Anniversary parade in 1984. Queen was Michele Micalizzi and O'Lantern was City Treasurer, Ron Graves. Krissy Pratico won the prize for naming O'Lantern. The Best Float was Miss Paula's Theatrical Entourage. The 1985 O'Lantern was Fire Chief Gerald Lloyd. Chuck Gallagher won the bike. The Queen was Debbie Sharp. The Best Float was Miss Paula's Theatrical Group. For the first time a costume contest for City employees was held. Winners were Miche Kelley and Meg Grace. The 1986 O'Lantern was Police Chief Paul Benson. The Queen was Mary Grabowski. The Best Float award went to the Rutland Fire Department. Michele Mackin won the trophy by naming O'Lantern. This year's parade was the "largest" ever remembered. In the following years the parade route would have to be adjusted to accommodate the size of the parade. In 1987 O'Lantern was Monica Allen. The Queen was Mariko Ketchin. Jamie Van Guilder won the bicycle. This year a window painting contest was held and Skip Jensen and Scott Duncan were the winners. 1988 O'Lantern was School Superintendent Charles Skiptunas. The Queen was Mary Coombs. Tonni Cassarino won the bike. The Halloween Party was broken down into two age groups, K-2 and grades 3 & 4. There was a costume parade, with prizes and refreshments and a professional storyteller was hired. In 1989 O'Lantern was Jack Healey, Sportscaster from WSYB. the Queen was Marcy McGurl. Winner of the bike was Krystle Jones. It was decided that the O'Lantern contest should be revamped as involvement was down.

The 1990s

In 1990 O'Lantern was Julie Teta, Program Director of the Rutland Free Library. The Queen was April Sherman. There were three winners of the O'Lantern Contest: Emily Fenn, Lori Brown and Chris Kraby. A Haunted Gobbler Hike was introduced at Giogetti Park and was very

successful. In 1991, O'Lantern was Sheriff Lee Jones. Winners identifying O'Lantern were: David Noel and Jason Kraby. A new parade route would have to be established as there were too many flatbeds and too many turns. In 1992 O'Lantern was Dr. Richard Brothers. Queen was Bridget Burgess. Jessica Walker and Joshua Severance won the O'Lantern prizes. The 1993 O'Lantern was Steve Marro and the winners of the contest were Jackie Sarault and John Carpenter. The Queen was Kasey Janoski. The Hobgoblin Hike was very well attended by approximately 2,000 children. The 1994 Jack O'Lantern was Tom Browe of the Rutland County Humane Society. Winners of the contest were Krystie Wood, Arielle Weintraub, Whitney Northrop and David Luncz. The Queen was Beth Glodzik. This year began awards for several categories in the Parade, from Superintendent's to Mayor's to Best in Show to Best Costumed Marching Unit to Best Costumed Marching Band to Honorable Mention. In 1995 Mr. Jack O'Lantern was June Osowski, Children's Librarian. Winners of the contest were Michael Gromly, Laura Pierce, Diane Corsones and Joshua Hock. The Queen was Teri Delong. The Haunted Hobgoblin was not held this year. In 1996 Jack O'Lantern was Mike Valentine of Channel 15. Danielle Boudreau's name was called as the first winner. She was not present and unfortunately a young man named Daniel Boudreau picked up the prize. The mistake was later corrected. Other winners were: Justin Potter and Daisy Dikeman. Rebecca Pratico was Queen. First Place float was by Killington Resorts. For 1997 many businesses entered floats in the parade. O'Lantern was J.J. Cioffi of WCAX Channel 3 News and Sports. Contest winners were: David Hamilton, Matt Trombley, Brad Pierce and Kimberly Wortman. The Queen was Sara Courcelle. First Place float was by the Rutland Herald. There were 71 units in the 39th Halloween Parade in 1998. O'Lantern was Terry Jaye of Mix 98.1 (WJJR/Cat Country) radio. Contest winners were Erin O'Neill, Sara Williams, Heather Granger and Joshua Horvath. The Best Float was by RRMC Operating Room. In 1999 O'Lantern was Ronald McDonald. Winners of the contest were Heather Granger, Kevin Loso, Alyssa (?), Brad Pierce and Casey Lee Hayes. Queen was Amanda Nichols. Best Float was the Rutland Intermediate School. This was a controversial year, Ronald McDonald received criticism as the choice for O'Lantern because he was not a local person. His appeal to children was the reason for his choice.

2000 to 2006

In 2000, O'Lantern was Tom Donahue, Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce President. Winners of the contest were: Brad Pierce, Brian Cesire, Katie Linquist, Christopher Oberg, Evan Miller and Myles Ricketts. The Queen was Jill Talbot. First Place float was by Garden Time. This was an election year, but there was no problem with political floats. The 2001 O'Lantern was Bill Reardon, Maintenance Foreman for the Recreation & Parks Department for 41 years. Winners of the contest were, Tyler Ballard, Bethany Lanfear, Ashley Harris, Tess Romano, Shannon Rollins and Matt Levine. Courtney Over was Queen. First Place float was from Tinmouth Elementary School. The 2002 O'Lantern was Mary Cassarino. Winners of the contest were Jacob Lanfear, Lauren Walczuk, Alex Hill, Yula Smith, Stephan Bartenstein and Tyler Lynch. The First Place float was CCV's Spider Bus. In 2003 O'Lantern was Greg McClellan, local attorney. Winners of the contest were: Jacob Clark, Emilee Cornelius, Eric DeBlasio, Sarah Durkee, Anna Barnes, Lauren Walczuk, Benjamin Lorman, Shannon Leigh Rollins, Reilly Candon, Cody Doaner, Robbie Ettori, Spencer Potter and Mary Kate Cirelli. The 2004 O'Lantern was Chris Greene. The First Place float was from the Rutland High School Art Club. The 2005

O'Lantern was Carolyn Babbitt. The First Place float was from Fabian's Earth Moving. Last year, O'Lantern was Rick Smyrski. The First Place float was by the Flip Side Skatepark. Eda LaPlaca was Queen and Princesses were: Tiffany Briggs, Courtney May Hutchins, Allison Flewelling, Stacy E. Corey, Krystina Murray, Kayla Bourn and Megan Cioffi.

On October 31st the 48th Rutland Halloween Parade will be held. Who will be O'Lantern? Will there be a Queen? Is there a party somewhere? How many Princesses will there be? And how many Best of Everything will be marching or rolling before our eyes? How could we possibly say Boooo! to such wonderful goings on when it's Halloween in Rutland, Vermont!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 13, 1908

RUTLAND'S NEW TELEPHONE SYSTEM

Company Moved to New Quarters in the Mead Building Saturday Night---The "Cut Over" a Success.

After months of preparation the final "cut over," shifting the central office of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company from the Putnam and Sawyer block to the Mead building, was made at 11:30 o'clock Saturday night and was an entire success. The honor of throwing the switch which did the work was bestowed upon Miss Margaret Kelley, the chief operator, who has been with the company for the last 12 years. Shortly after the "cut over" was made the company treated the men, who have been employed in installing the apparatus in the new office, to an informal banquet. Later it is understood that a reception will be held for the public when every one will be invited to visit the rooms and inspect the apparatus, the working of which will be explained.

A cut-over is regarded by telephone engineers as a very important event and elaborate preparations are made for several months in advance of the actual cut over which as a matter of fact consists of ripping out certain heat coils at the old exchange.

The common battery type of exchange system now in use in Rutland derives its name from the fact that the electricity used in transmitting the messages is now supplied from the big storage batteries located at each subscriber's station as in the former system.

The feature of the common battery system which appeals most strongly to the subscriber is that he calls central by simply removing his receiver from the hook and is no longer required to turn a crank either to call central or to notify her that his conversation is finished.

Under the present system, when the subscriber removes his receiver from the hook a tiny electric lamp in front of the operator is lighted. When the conversation is completed and the receiver placed on the hook this lamp goes out. If the operators' attention is wanted during a call, moving the receiver hook slowly up and down will secure it by flashing a special signal lamp in front of her.

The common battery system in use at Rutland is similar to that used in New York, Boston, Chicago and all the large cities of the country.

Among other improvements which the new system brings is that of "divided ringing." By the use of divided ringing, if for instance Mr. A and Mr. B are each on a two party line, Mr. A's bell rings only when he is wanted at the telephone and when Mr. B is called A hears no ring.

The operating and terminal rooms are located on the fourth floor while the manager's office and the public pay stations are on the second floor.

When Manager R.D. Beals first took charge of the Rutland exchange in 1882, there were less than 100 subscribers connected with it. At this time Rutland had no connection with the outside world and it was not until a year later that a line was built to Ludlow and a few months later to Boston.

The first system operated in Rutland was that of the old grounded lines. This later gave way to metallic circuits with a magneto switchboard, which again retired in favor of the relay board which was put into use on Saturday night.

The little group of less than a hundred subscribers which Mr. Beals served when he first entered the employ of the company has grown to over 1400.

The telephone development of Rutland is higher than most of the cities of New England, there being a telephone to every 10 people. Mr. Beal's first assistants consisted of one day operator and one night operator. There are now 31 people on the payroll of the Rutland office.

The company does not think that Rutland has by any means reached its ultimate telephone growth and in installing a new plant has prepared to handle the new subscribers by installing a switchboard with an ultimate capacity of about 2400 stations.

The company claims that the system just installed is the best and that it embodies all that is new and up to date in telephony. The considerable changes in the plant, which the new system necessitates, have been made with the utmost care. Every connection and every subscriber's line has been carefully tested, yet with the utmost care it is inevitable that certain lines will come--as the telephone people say--- "in trouble." While the company will make every effort to put these lines in order without delay, some inconvenience may be avoided by calling the manager of the exchange and informing him such a line is "in trouble." This courtesy on the part of any subscriber will be greatly appreciated by the company.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, November 26, 1908

CHURCH EDIFICE IN DANGER

Costly Structure of Universalists considered to Be unsafe

Excavation for Lincoln & Fuller Block Has Weakened East Wall--Crack in Cement Floor Shows That Foundation is Settling--No More Meetings to Be Held in Church at Present--Situation Critical.

Settling walls may do irreparable damage to St. Paul's Universalist Church on West Street, the building being deemed unsafe for public purposes for the present. The settling was caused by the excavation for a building which is being erected by Lincoln & Fuller and although the earth along the edge of the lawn had been braced previously it became necessary Sunday forenoon to call out some of the men employed in the excavation to secure the embankment further by the use of heavy timbers.

After the supports had been put in, a board fence was constructed several feet from the edge of the excavations and notices posted warning people to keep away from the edge of the embankment.

J.H. Lincoln of the firm of Lincoln & Fuller, who are the owners of the property where the excavation is being carried on, stated last evening that the work on the wall of the new building will be pushed as rapidly as possible on the side next to the church foundations. This work was begun Saturday morning and will be pushed.

It is feared that if rain should come the tower of the church would be in danger of falling, and that the walls of the church would be damaged beyond repair, and as the structure is a valuable one it would mean an immense loss to the society.

In excavating for the new block the earth was dug out to a depth of about two feet below the foundation of the church and owing to the nature of the soil it is feared that the wall will slide from beneath the church before the foundation for the block can be put in. The soil is as soft as clay and in some places is in a semi-liquid form.

That the wall of the church has started to settle is evident from the fact that there is a long crack in the new cement floor which has recently been put in the basement.

On account of the building being deemed unsafe, it was found necessary to change the meeting place for the union Thanksgiving service which was to have been held in the church Thursday morning, and yesterday the Baptist church was decided upon for the meeting.

This has also made a change necessary for the recitals which are to be given by Miss Charlotte A. Kilburn, the first of which, the Schubert String quartet, was to have been tomorrow evening in the Universalist Church. Miss Kilburn stated last evening that the Methodist Church has been secured for this recital.

This was almost 99 years ago! Have you looked at the parking lot next to the St. Paul's Universalist Church lately? The same location of the building excavation that almost did the church in 99 years ago,

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 20, 1930

TEN PLANES COMING FOR AIR CARNIVAL

Widely Known Pilots to Perform at Local Field Today and Tomorrow

All plans are complete for the American Legion two-day aerial carnival to begin at 1:30 o'clock today at Van Olinda Field, it was announced last night by Jack Boyle, representing the flyers, and Raymond J. Cocklin, chairman of the Legion committee. The grounds will be open to the public at 1:00 today.

"Pal" Weingart, last surviving member of the nationally famous group of barnstormers known as the "13 Black Cats," will retire from an active career as parachute jumper, it is said, after an attempt at 4 o'clock Sunday afternoon, to break the New England free fall record which is a little over 1600 feet.

The visiting pilots will arrive early this morning. They are Roscoe Brinton of Springfield, MA, flying a Wright powered Waco; "Pat" Collins of Charlestown, RI, in a Ryan cabinplane, sistership of the "Spirit of St. Louis;" Lieut. George Wilson of Keene, NH, with a Challenger plane; Everett Mordin of Middlebury in his Standard plane and Lieut. Carl A. Dixon and his Wright powered new Standard.

Today's carnival events open with formation flying of all ships over the city at 1:30. Balloon bursting competition at 2:15 will hold many thrills as each plane attempts to "get" its two balloons in as short a time as possible.

At 3 o'clock the planes will go up for a bombing contest, in which each pilot will drop two two-pound sack "bombs" from a height of 1000 feet in the air with a small circle on the flying field as target. The scores will be compared and the winner will be presented a trophy. A regular military stunting contest will be put on at 3:45, including practically all the usual aerial stunts of what the pilots term "the works."

Lieut. Carl A. Dixon will fly for a distance of nearly four miles in an upside down position at 4 o'clock. "Chick" Taylor will make a parachute jump at 6 o'clock, concluding the day's program.

Sunday's program will open with a formation at 1 o'clock. The American Legion Commander's Cup race will be staged at 1:30. The balloon bursting will be put on at 2:15 and will be followed by the bombing contest. At 3:45 a special race will be called for the Montreal flyers and at 4:45 the stunting contest will take place. Lieut. Dixon will do his upside down flying stunt at 5:45 and "Chick" Taylor will make a parachute jump at 6:00, closing the events of the two-day meet. On Sunday the field will be open to the public at 9 o'clock in the morning.

The Legion has secured permission from the Board of Aldermen and John C. Fox, Commissioner of Public Safety, to have "one-way" traffic in force on the Creek Road from the Dorr Bridge on River Street to the Billings Bridge on Park Street. The traffic will move southward on the Creek Road. The field has been roped off. A crowd of about 10,000 is expected on Sunday.

September 22, 1930

THOUSANDS WATCH RACING IN SKIES

Briton Carries Off Principal Trophy in Two-Day Aerial Meet Here

Thousands saw W. Roscoe Brinton of Springfield, MA, pilot his Waco bi-plane to victory in the Commander's Cup race, the feature event of the two-day American Legion aerial carnival at Van Olinda field on the Creek Road, which ended yesterday with a series of plane maneuvers. The race had a thrilling finish, with Brinton leading Lieut. Carl A. Dixon, meet manager, by only two-fifths of a second.

At 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon traffic began to pour into the Van Olinda field and more than 5000 watched the events from the landing field. Thousands of other persons evaded paying the admission cost [Adults .25 & children free] by driving to the Quarterline road or by watching from the hills around the airport.

The bomb dropping contest, was won by Lieut. Dixon, who in two tries easily defeated all other contestants. Pilot Brinton was second. Dixon placed his two "bombs" the nearest to a circle in the center of the field. Pilot Brinton captured the balloon bursting event, with Lieut. Dixon second. Brinton smashed his balloon with his propeller 16 seconds after it had been released. Dixon broke his balloon in 20 seconds. The other pilots were far behind.

"Pal" Weingart, last surviving member of the "13 Black Cats" Flying Circus, ended his parachute jumping career with a 1400-foot free fall from Lieut. Dixon's plane. Weingart hurled with great speed through space before he opened his chute. "Chic" Taylor, youthful parachute performer, concluded his Rutland appearance with a leap into the semi-darkness from Lieut. Dixon's plane at 6:30. He landed safely.

Pilot Brinton was the outstanding stunter on Saturday, thrilling the crowd at the airfield and in the city with maneuvers with his plane. Pilot Soule, who is the only deaf pilot now holding a government license and Pilot Mardin were the outstanding thrill furnishers on Sunday. Soule was given a license on account of his war aviation record and ability. Lieut. Dixon gave another exhibition of up-side down flying with his heavy ship, leaving the plane on its back for four minutes.

Members of the Legion drum and bugle corps assisted the flyers by handling traffic at the field. The Legion Committee in charge of the affair included Commander Robert M. Higgins, Raymond J. Cocklin, George A. Sabin, Clifford Wilson and Charles E. Novak. Many passengers soared over the city in pleasure flights during the two days.

Tidbits From Then and Now

THE GENESIS OF VAN OLINDA FIELD

Rutland Daily Herald, August 21, 1929

Aviation Society and Flying Service To Establish Airport on Creek Road

The American Society for the Promotion of Aviation and the Red Wing Flying Service, Inc., have jointly leased a 100-acre tract of land on the east side of Creek Road near the city limits for an airport, it was announced last night by W.E. Van Olinda, owner of the land and promoter of a large real estate development on Creek Road, which he is calling Dorr Drive.

The new airport is almost opposite the scene of one of the city's most spectacular fires, which razed a group of large barns off the Van Olinda property, formerly known as the Temple farm and before that as the Baxter farm. The airport site is part of the same estate.

Warren F. Shuping, field manager of the Red Wing Service, will arrive in the city with a new \$10,000, four-place, enclosed cabin, Red Wing plane and a flying crew of six men on Monday, September 2. The operations of the company will include demonstrations, exhibition flying and other activities which will tend to increase the interest in aviation here.

While planes have, at widely separated intervals, used this field for landing, no company has ever established its headquarters there. The field is well packed and exceptionally level for the full length of more than a half-mile. It is nearly a quarter of a mile wide and easily approachable by automobiles. There are few, if any, obstructions which will hamper the landing of planes arriving from any direction.

Rutland Daily Herald, May 29, 1930

RUTLAND TO HAVE FLYING FIELD

Plans were practically completed at Rutland Monday for starting a Flying School and an Airline to connect Rutland with Albany and Montreal.

It is expected that work will start within the next few days on the main runway which will be 3600 feet long, at the Rutland City Airport, which will be the name the airport will operate under, located on Dorr Drive on the Van Olinda property.

The operating company will be a Vermont Corporation and will be known as the Rutland-Albany-Montreal Airlines, Inc. 49 percent of the stock has been subscribed to by the Red Wing Flying Services, Inc. of Ware, Mass, and the remaining 51 per cent will be offered to the people of Vermont.

Roy Ahern, chief pilot of the Red Wing Flying Service Inc., holder of the world's record for passenger carrying in 1929, who was paid over \$20,000 for his services last year, will be in charge of all operations.

He has announced that the new company would run along the same lines that have made the Red Wing Flying Service so successful. That is, all equipment will be government licensed and inspected and carry full insurance.

Prices for cross country trips and flying instructions will be approximately one-half of what is charged any other place in New England.

Heated cabin planes will be used for both cross country and instruction so operation can be carried on the year round. The new Goodyear Airwheels will be used on all planes so they will be able to take off and land on snow. Present plans call for the erection of a hangar and a joint airplane and auto gas and oil service station.

Rutland Daily Herald, November 8, 1930

THREE-SHIP HANGAR TO BE CONSTRUCTED AT AIRFIELD HERE

Announcement was made last night by William E. Van Olinda that on Monday workmen would start the construction of a three-plane hangar at the Van Olinda airport on the Creek Road. The other owners are Abe Newman of Melrose Avenue and Harry J. Calkins, a Rochester contractor.

November 10, 1930.

Plans are going forward for the formation of a flying club at Van Olinda field and a meeting will be held at the Davenport garage on South Main Street to choose officers. It is expected that work on the three-ship hangar and clubhouse will be started at the field today.

November 13, 1930

Plans were set in motion for the formation, this week, of a Rutland flying club with a membership of about 18 young men. A ground school will open next Monday or Tuesday for instruction in aeronautics.

The ground school class will construct, as part of its course, a Heath parasol plane. This plane will be used only for mechanical instruction, a recent model training plane being used for air work. Actual plane parts and motors will be used instead of text books, giving the student a real working knowledge of planes. Air work will be started on the Creek Road field soon after the formation of the ground class. Ensign A.R. DeForge, former Navy pilot, will be flying instructor and will teach the ground course in conjunction with C.E. "Pal" Weingart, parachute jumper and only surviving member of the nationally known "13 Black Cats." Members of the club will join in purchasing the training plane.

November 14, 1930

Material from a building used in connection with a lime kiln at Danby will be utilized in the construction of the hangar and clubroom at the airport on Creek Road. The structure is a two-story steel building and will provide ample room for plane storage and other rooms on the ground floor and a recreation hall and other quarters on the second floor, when reconstructed.

November 21, 1930

William A. Van Olinda of Creek Road announced that his interest in the airport had been purchased by his partners, Harry J. Calkins and Abraham Newman. Mr. Van Olinda, who first conceived the idea of establishing an airport on the large tract of land east of the Creek Road, between the Billings and the Dorr bridges, formed a partnership with Calkins and Newman about two months ago to develop the site. Since that time there has been considerable grading work done on the field and a number of improvements made. Due to the pressure of other business, Mr. Van Olinda stated that he is unable to take part in the activities at the airport.

February 10, 1931

NEW HANGAR UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT RUTLAND AIRPORT

I don't know when the airport or the classes ceased. I have been told by "someone" that she remembers sliding down the hills around Creek Road on some of the metal strips taken from the "old" hangar.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 18, 1930

RADIO AUDITIONS TO BE HELD IN RUTLAND

Voice Tests Will Be Conducted at New Station, WSYB, Beginning Late This Week

Rutland people who believe they have good radio voices will be given an opportunity to take an audition test in the studio of station WSYB which will start broadcasting within two weeks. It was announced last night by the owners and operators, Seward & Weiss of this city.

Voice tests will be made at the 33 Center Street studio late this week. Work of testing the broadcasting equipment will be begun next week. Finishing touches are being made on the sound proof studio at the rear of the music store while at the same time apparatus is being put in order for the broadcasting tests.

Aerial masts and wiring will be erected within the next few days on the roof of the building occupied by the radio station. The set is a 100 watt RCA hookup with a reception range of 100 miles which will cover northern New England and much of upstate New York. Under excellent air conditions it will be possible to get the station at greater distances.

The station has been authorized by the Federal Radio Commission to operate on a full time schedule or 24 hours daily. While the station will not use the entire time permitted, it will be in operation much of the day and early evening, with occasional long programs, the owners state.

Programs will consist principally of local talent and electrical transcriptions. News bulletins and flashes also will be put on the air and it is said that later it is possible that public programs, like church services, affairs at the armory, dance orchestra programs from local halls and high school events, may be transmitted.

December 1, 1930

WSYB TO BE GIVEN FIRST TEST TONIGHT

Station WSYB, owned and operated by Seward & Weiss Music Store, Center Street, will be heard on the air for the first time at 12 o'clock tonight, when initial tests will be made. The official opening program is now being arranged for the latter part of the week, probably Friday.

A number of radio enthusiasts throughout the state and northern Massachusetts have been posted about the testing tonight and will "listen in." Their reports will be used in tuning the transmitter. Electrical transcription will make up the test program.

December 10, 1930

WEEKS WILL SPEAK AS STATION WSYB IS OPENED TONIGHT

Governor John E. Weeks will be the principal speaker on the opening program of station WSYB, "The Voice of Vermont," which will be put on the air at 7 o'clock tonight. Regular daily broadcasts will start on Thursday. Attorney General-elect Lawrence C. Jones will act as master of ceremonies at the formal opening.

A number of Rutland speakers, several soloists and two dance orchestra programs will comprise the opening broadcast as the Seward & Weiss Music Company's transmitter will be heard on the air for the first time with an entertainment program. Mayor Arthur W. Perkins, C.D. Spencer, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and Cola J. Cleveland, president of Rutland Rotary Club, will say a few words.

The opening selection will be played by the Rutland Concert Orchestra under the direction of Joseph C. Cox,. Other numbers on the program include solos by William Tarbell, xylophonist; Mrs. Cornie Glynn Cocklin, contralto; Dexter Davison, pianist; Mrs. L. D. Pitts, soprano; Ladies ensemble of the Green Mountain Singers; Nellie Hermann, violinist; Anna Hill Nichols, contralto; Lowell Guerin, pianist; Vermont Troubadours stringed orchestra under the direction of Edna Johnson Warren; Reggie Weeks, tenor; Mrs. Rita Hayden, soprano; Marble City Male quartet composed of Leland H. Fish, Webster D. Barter, Reginald H. Strubbe and George B. MacGregor; Olson trio featuring Florence Mead, pianist, Herbert Olson, violin, Otis Edson, cello; Christine Germond, soprano; Bill Mangan and his band and Pat Callahan and his orchestra.

The announcer is Raymond Purinton and the operator is Howard Bromley.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, March 24, 1942

Bicycle Sales Soar As Motoring Curbs Increase

Skeptics who have maintained for 40 years that the newfangled invention of the automobile wasn't here to stay are having their innings these days as purchases of bicycles by Rutlanders mount--insurance against a gasless, tireless and hence autoless future.

The trend toward two-wheeled transportation has already attained nation-wide proportions and bicycle dealers are enjoying the best business in years.

Light, functional English-type bicycles have virtually disappeared from the market. Adult purchasers have revealed a preference for these models rather than the heavy chromium and gadget-bedecked types that are the dream of every American boy.

Unlike auto tires, bicycle tires are not rationed. The government has already clamped a lid on the manufacture of balloon-type tires, which require twice the weight of rubber that smaller tires need. Likewise, fancy stainless steel trimmings may no longer be manufactured.

Local bicycle dealers have not been able to fill recent orders made with manufacturers. Because this section does not rate as a defense area, bicycle quotas for Rutland are expected to be set very low.

On many a Rutland side street these days prominent businessmen may be seen cautiously testing legs that have not pumped a bike since boyhood. To the tune of creaking joints they are seeking to acquire sufficient skill to brave the downtown traffic and critical glances of Merchants Row.

Several business concerns have ordered bicycles for their staffs in an effort to conserve on gasoline and auto tires. The Central Vermont Public Service Corporation has placed orders for 25 bicycles for the use of meter men, men making light repairs and other employees who make short trips with light equipment. As yet the utility has been able to obtain only five of the bicycles due to the shortage.

Some indication of the rise in the number of bicycles in the city may be gained from the police registration figures. Police Chief William Fox reports that already 850 bicycle licenses have been issued as compared with about 600 at this time a year ago.

As the weather grows warmer the registration is expected to increase and eventually top the figure of 1500 attained in 1941. A city ordinance requires that all bicycles be registered with the police and that they carry a light, rear reflector, horn or bell and that brakes and tires be in good condition.

A glance at the bicycle registry indicates that men are by no means the only new bicyclists. Many women and girls working in downtown offices have purchased bicycles.

Boys and girls are still in the majority but if the trend keeps up perhaps junior and his sister may be reduced to walking while mom and pop pedal to the stores and offices and the family car gathers dust in the garage.

Today the push to return to bicycles is again floating around, not because of a war effort, but because of gas prices!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, April 5, 1930

GRAND VIEW HOTEL SOON TO DISAPPEAR

Wreckers Start Attack on Old Building; Oil Station to Occupy Site

The Grand View Hotel, situated at the intersection of Strongs Avenue and South Main Street and a landmark in the southern part of the city for nearly 50 years, is rapidly disappearing under the hammers of a wrecking crew.

The building will be completely razed within two weeks, it was stated yesterday by the foreman, John W. Burton, under whom six men are now working on the third story. Charles G. Noyes is the contractor in charge.

A modern seven-tank filling station will be erected on the premises by the Beacon Oil Company of Boston as soon as the present structure is removed. ["Stewarts" now occupies this location].

The Grand View Hotel was a four-story building which under different managements has borne various names, including the Glen Wood Hotel and the Belmont. At one time it accommodated a good many transients especially during the Rutland Fair.

Christopher Rice, the famous long distance walker, once had his home on the site of the present building. Rice was known far and wide for his ability to win walking races. He kept a large cabbage patch in front of his home which he cared for assiduously to give him exercise when he was not engaged in walking.

Rice's favorite pastime was to push a wheelbarrow from Rutland to some distant point, such as Fair Haven or Whitehall. This, he claimed conditioned him for other contests. He also had a walking track in the rooms over the Savings Bank building on Merchants Row and here he would "strut his stuff" with a coterie of admirers gathered round to speculate just what he would do in his next match.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, December 26, 1907

Christmas in New England

Unusually Mild Weather--Dinner and Presents for Thousands in Boston

Christmas in New England was a green one. The ground, except in Northern Maine and New Hampshire woods was bereft of snow, while the day itself was like one left over from the Indian Summer or brought on from next spring. Similar conditions were obtained two years ago. With such unusual weather, the customary Christmas sports, such as skating, ice hockey, coasting and similar amusements, were impossible.

Through the efforts of the Salvation Army and other organizations, thousands of destitute people were given good dinners for the first time in months and many children, who never before knew the meaning of Christmas, were made glad with small presents.

Christmas in Rutland

Santa's Correspondents

A number of letters have been received from children writing to Santa Claus. One of them read as follows:

"My Dear Santa Claws: I though I would rite you a few lines to let you know that I am well and hope you are the same. What do you want for a prence. I want a new par of ribbon and new par of coms and a new par of meats (mits) for Christmas prence. That is all and I will thank you Santa Claus for what you have give me so good by."

Following is another letter that shows the unselfishness of a little girl hardly able to write:

"Dear Old Santa: Please sent me a dolly carriage and sister a dress and Margret a dolly. Give my mama and papa something nice and I will love you from your little girl."

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, January 2, 1908

The New Year

The new year is with us, let us greet it cheerily and with renewed courage, based upon the successes and the failures of the old year; let us highly resolve that when this year too is in its dotage we shall have written yet greater deeds on the pages of history as a people than has ever been recorded there before.

Not deeds of war, of might and cunning, not even deeds of greater material prosperity necessarily, but deeds of moral greatness.

The old year beyond all else, was conspicuous for the great moral awakening which, during its twelve-months, spread over all the country. Never before has the demand for purity, and honesty in politics been so insistent. Never before has the standard of civic virtue been so uniformly high. Never before has the public demand for popular government in all branches been so imperative. Never before has the lot of the grafter been so perilous. The people were never before quite so determined for a government for the people and of the people and never was it less true in American politics that to the victors in partisan politics belong the spoils.

East and West, North and South political bosses during the past year have been tumbled from their pedestals, pried from their places by the level of independence in politics on the fulcrum of righteous discontent. After years of patient enduring the American people have begun to clean house. And the end is not yet. Instead of allowing a few bosses to parcel out patronage and to apportion State and National office as best suited their selfish needs and desires, the people, to their own surprise, find themselves masters of the situation wherever they have exerted their will and supreme as their Constitution designed that they should be.

In moral as well as material advances the old year was well worth the living. The new year may be made more glorious still. On its first day no better resolve can be made by the individual than to do his part in continuance of the good work, a work which has for its object the redemption of city and State from extravagance, from pernicious politics, from boss domination and idle and shiftless method.

A Happy New Year to all and to all a new year of yet greater successes in private and public endeavor.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, April 9, 1930

FOUR-STORY SHOP IS RAZED BY WRECKERS

Building in Terrill Group on West Street, 50 Years Old, is Torn Down

The four-story woodwork and paint shop located on the south side of the Terrill Block at West and Wales Streets, has been razed by a wrecking crew which started operations a week ago today and completed the work in five days.

There are three buildings in the group which constitutes the Terrill Block. The building was recently purchased from the Samuel Terrill estate by the Standard Oil Company and a new filling station will be erected.

Work on demolition is now progressing on the blacksmith shop, which fronts West Street. The shop is two and one-half stories high and is already partly torn down.

Workmen stated that yesterday morning an "old-timer" tarried near the scene of the wrecking job and, after sadly watching the timbers fall to the ground, he informed several of the workers that he had helped to build the structure more than 50 years ago. His name was not ascertained.

The old wagon-shop, which is the largest of the group, and which stands directly on the corner, will not go under the hammers of the wrecking crew until after May 1, it was stated. The Rutland Hudson-Essex Company, which occupies the ground floor, will move on May 1 to its new quarters at West and Evelyn Streets where a \$70,000 fireproof garage is rapidly nearing completion.

Charles G. Noyes is in charge of the demolition of the Terrill property and Guy Raymond is foreman.

The former filling station no longer exists. It is now the parking lot for the Key Bank building.

Tidbits From Then and Now

"Home For The Holidays"

Excerpts from the 1908 Diary of Charlotte Chaffee

January 1-Wednesday

In the morning helped Papa fix the stage at the Parish House for the play in the evening. In the afternoon we all went rollerskating. Gertrude went to the play with Percy. Alice [Chaffee] with George Morse, Marie [Olivette] with Fred [Chaffee] and I went with John Davis. Had a grand time. After the plays "The Whole Truth" and "A Pair of Lunatics" we had dancing and danced till twelve. Had an awfully good time.

January 2 -Thursday

Miss Douglas [dressmaker] came and I fooled around in the morning. In the afternoon did some errands and went rollerskating. Stayed to supper with Marie [Olivette] and in the evening we went to Dreamland [movie theatre in the Gryphon Building]. Spent the night with Marie too. Got to bed about 11:00. [Marie Olivette lived at the Berwick Hotel where her uncle William Valiquette was the proprietor. He was also the proprietor of the Woodstock Hotel in New York City].

January 3 -Friday

Had breakfast in bed and went home about 12:00. Earle invited Gertrude, Alice, Fred and myself down to dinner so I changed my dress and went. After dinner we played cards, had a good time. Came home and fooled around. In the evening Marie [Olivette] came up and spent the night. Percy came down in the evening.

January 4 – Saturday

Slept late. Marie and I did some errands with the horse. Went rollerskating and had a great time. In the evening Earl came up and I went to bed early.

January 5 -Sunday

Didn't go to church. Alice, Gertrude and I went down to Marie's for dinner and had a dandy time. Then we called on the Willsons and Caverlys and Marie came up to supper and she spent the night. Got to bed about ten.

January 6 -Monday

Slept until 9. Then went downtown and did errands. After dinner went to Dr. Williams, but didn't have any cavities. Then Marie and I walked down to say goodbye to Gaga. Then went up to the roller rink and had a grand last skate with Steve Lalor. Came home and had supper and packed after supper and took a bath and went to bed early.

January 7 -Tuesday

Got up at 9:00 and left on the 10:25 train, Marie and Percy and the family came down to see us off. Steve came in the station just as we were pulling out. Got to N.Y. at 6:00 and Aunt Mary met us and we went up to the house for dinner. After dinner we went to see Turley Bellew and Margaret Illington in "The Thief." It was splendid. Got to bed about 12:00.

January 8 -Wednesday

Got up about 8:00 and went out shopping and had lunch at Dorlands. Then we shopped a while after lunch and Aunt Mary came over to the 23rd Street ferry with us and we left on the Congressional Limited at 3:40. Had a dandy dinner on the train and got to Washington at 8:30 and got out to school about 10:00. It seemed awfully good to see all the girls. Helen [Scheidt] and I talked until about 12:00.

[At the time of the diary, Charlotte, age 17, and her older sister Alice were both attending the National Park Seminary in Forest Glen MD].

The Society has published Charlotte's 1908 diary in two *Quarterlies*, Vol.35 No. 2 and Vol. 35 No. 3.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 22, 1950

PROCTOR MANSION WHERE PRESIDENTS WERE FETED BEING RAZED

Home of Family Which Gave State 4 Governors

The house, where Presidents Harrison and McKinley were royally feted and where Theodore Roosevelt slept the night before McKinley was shot, is expected to be demolished by late summer. Built in the early 1880s by the late Senator Redfield Proctor, Secretary of War in President Harrison's cabinet, the place has been the home of the family which has given Vermont four governors.

Senator Proctor himself was Vermont Governor from 1878 to 1880. His two sons served as governor after him, the late Fletcher D. Proctor, from 1906 to 1908 and Redfield Proctor from 1923 to 1925, while his grandson, Mortimer R. Proctor, held office from 1945 to 1947.

The first of the three famous visitors to the Proctor home, President Harrison, arrived August 28, 1891, two years after Senator Proctor had gone to Washington as Secretary of War. A handbill announcing the forth-coming presidential visit was distributed. Everybody was invited to welcome President Harrison, Friday evening August 28, 1891. Everyone was asked to illuminate their residences and make the town as attractive as possible and give him a genuine Vermont welcome.

Before the full blackness of the night had come on, the little village was in colored lights, while from an arch in front of Secretary Proctor's house the word "Welcome" gleamed. The village people, numbering nearly a thousand, had gathered on the lawn of Proctor's house and in the roadway before it. As a torchlight procession approached the Proctor mansion a great flame leaped up from the top of the mountain across the valley, more than a mile away. Answering it, signal fires flamed from a dozen hilltops all around, while through the village columns of fire from great torches of pitch and shavings made a cloud-hung heaven red with their glare. From the hills to the left, rockets and bombs were sent up. It was five minutes of nine when the head of the procession reached Proctor's house. President Harrison, in his speech, called the reception "one that I have never seen excelled."

The second presidential visit was in August, six years later, when President and Mrs. McKinley, accompanied by Secretary of War Alger, stayed overnight at the Proctor home. Again the place was decorated for the occasion, with red, white and blue lights suspended from the shrubbery, the American flag flying from a pole surmounted by a circle of lights. Every arch, cornice and line of the house was so accentuated by electricity that the moon overhead seemed to shed a dim apology for living.

The night before McKinley was shot in 1901 Theodore Roosevelt, then Vice President, stayed overnight at the Proctor mansion. A band concert had been arranged for the occasion, but at a

crucial moment the wires broke down and the lights failed. Proctor, then in his early 20s, met the crisis by standing on a soap box and holding the wires together while the band finished the concert. The next morning Roosevelt left for Isle La Motte to attend the annual meeting of the Vermont Fish and Game Club. It was there that he received word of McKinley's assassination.

The next big event at the Proctor mansion was on June 1, 1903, the 73rd birthday of Senator Proctor. He hosted a reunion of the 15th Vermont regiment, in which he had been Colonel during the Civil War. A special event of the day was the surprise presentation to Senator Proctor by his comrades of a gold-headed cane.

Now, both the house and a greenhouse in the back yard are being demolished. The buildings, located at one end of the marble bridge in Proctor village between Otter Creek and the railroad, are nearly hidden behind evergreens, lilac bushes and other shrubbery. Though the mansion will soon be gone, one landmark connected with Senator Proctor cannot be destroyed.

Near the home of Redfield Proctor, in what was a pasture in post-Civil War days, lies buried Old Charley, the Morgan horse which the Colonel rode in the war between the states. The grave is marked by a 20-ton block of marble bearing the words "Old Charley". The marble block, according to Senator Proctor's wishes, can never be moved from Old Charley's last resting place.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 24, 1934

Dr. Alyce D. Beck and Dr. Gerhard T. Beck, chiropractic and naturopathic physicians, announced in a large advertisement in the Herald that they were opening the Health Extension Institute at 50 West Street in Rutland. [Now the site of the Heritage Family Credit Union.]

There was to be an opening for inspection on Saturday and Sunday before the formal opening on Monday. Office hours were 9 am to 8 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. On Tuesday, Thursday and Friday the hours were 9 am to 5 pm. Residential calls could be made at any time by calling 2118. Sanatorium and hospital facilities were also available at the 50 West Street location.

Services included the John F. Class Health System whose mineral vapor fume treatments eliminated accumulated poisons and toxins from the blood stream.

In the Chemical and Pathological Laboratory, periodic examinations of urine were used as an aid to the prevention of chronic ailments. Complete analysis of feces and blood counts were also available.

Colonic irrigation in which the large intestine is cleansed by the use of a specially constructed instrument was also offered.

A complete X-ray laboratory as well as an electro-therapy department which offered ultra violet ray, infra red ray and electrical current applications was also available.

The manipulation of bones and tissues for the relief of pressure on nerves and blood vessels was a major technique offered. Scientifically arranged diets after exhaustive analysis of an individual's particular problems, were also offered.

This ad brought out the investigator in me. How long was it open? Do any of you readers remember this place? The *Rutland Herald* did not cover the opening of the institute nor were there any further ads. It was located at 50 West Street, the present location of the Credit Union.

I searched the City Directories that we have at the Historical Society and found the following information:

In 1934 50 West Street was a vacant building. [In late 1934 it became the Health Extension Institute.]

1935: *Health Extension Institute*. Alyce D. Beck, Chiropractic & Naturopathic physician and Gerhard T. Beck, Chiropractic & Naturopathic physician. [50 West Street was also their home.]

1936: *Community Private Hospital*, operated by the Becks.

1937: *Community Private Hospital* now listed as 50A West St.

1938, 39 & 40: Same information

1941-43: Now called *Community Hospital*

1944: 50 West Street is now called *Church Hill Apartments* and the Becks still live at 50A West Street, but the Community Hospital was no longer listed.

1946 Church Hill Apartments are totally occupied but 50A is vacant and the Becks are no longer listed in the directory.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Courier, July 27, 1860

NOTICE

All persons who feel interested and desire to have the grounds recently purchased in Center Rutland used for a Cemetery to accommodate the inhabitants of the town, are requested to meet at the Chapel in Center Rutland on Monday, the 23rd inst, at 2 o'clock P.M., to choose a Committee to lay out and fence the grounds and to any other necessary work.

*H. H. Baxter,
John Proctor,
Wm. Gilmore,
F. Chaffee*

Rutland, July 19, 1860

Pursuant to the foregoing notice, quite a large number of gentlemen from the different sections of our town assembled and the meeting was organized by the appointment of Gen'l H. Henry Baxter, Chairman, and William A. Burnett, Secretary.

The chairman then stated to the meeting that four gentlemen present had secured of Mr. Gookin, about 32 acres of land on Pine Hill, extending down to the road a little south of the Chapel.

After a free and full expression upon the subject, by gentlemen from different sections of the town, all concurring in the necessity of having a general and prompt movement to provide grounds for a Cemetery of sufficient capacity and located so as to accommodate the whole town, it was voted: To appoint a Committee of five to take the whole charge of the grounds purchased, cause it to be surveyed and properly laid out immediately and to do such fencing as they may deem necessary and in such manner as they think best; also to secure further subscriptions to the articles of association and collect the same; also to take measures to secure an act of incorporation at the next session of our Legislature.

Voted: That the chair appoint a committee of three to nominate the foregoing committee of five, whereupon Jacob Edgerton, S. M. Dorr and John Proctor were appointed; and after a short recess they nominated the following gentlemen for the committee, to wit: H. Henry Baxter, Wm. Gilmore, Fred'k Chaffee, Wm. Y. Ripley and Chas. Sheldon and they were unanimously appointed.

Voted: That this Committee have full power to fill any vacancy that may occur in their number.

Voted: That this Committee be and are hereby authorized to procure of Wm. F. Barnes and the estate of Dr. Porter, the small piece of land owned by them on the southwest corner of the land already secured, provided they can do so on such terms as in their judgment will be for the interest of this Cemetery Association.

An opportunity was then given for those present who had not subscribed to the articles of association to do so and several gentlemen responded to the call promptly; thus giving "*material aid*" along with their personal influence to help on this worthy enterprise.

Voted: To adjourn,

H. Henry Baxter, Chairman

Wm. A. Burnett, Secretary

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 27, 1918

ESCAPES FROM POLAND, OUT OF GERMAN 'HELL' AND ARRIVES AT WEST RUTLAND

Out of hell itself.

Such is the deliverance that came to a young, educated and beautiful Polish woman who arrived in West Rutland from her devastated home in Russian Poland.

Rozalia Zolnek became the bride of Michael Zolnek in a little Polish town about 100 miles from Warsaw. She was the daughter of a well-to-do Polish family, living in an ancestral home. Soon after the marriage her husband came to America, arriving in 1910. He was lured by the prospect of advancement in the land of liberty. He left his young wife behind intending to send for her when he had accumulated enough to make their future home. He came to West Rutland and entered the employ of the Vermont Marble Company. He saved and economized until he might be able to bring his wife to America. But, the black cloud of war overspread Zolnek's homeland, making it impossible for his wife to leave.

For a time it seemed as if the Russian armies would stem the tide of the Germans and deliver Poland from the invader. But, the cloud shifted and the retreat of the Russians began. The German armies pounded them backward and the Russians lost the land they had held for so long.

One morning while the villagers in the town where Mrs. Zolnek resided were getting their morning meal, a cry ran through the village, "The Germans are coming! Flee for your lives!" Almost at the instant the warning was given, German airships began to hum over the town, dropping bombs upon the defenseless inhabitants. In their frenzy to escape the peril, women and children flung themselves into the river and drowned. Many in their frenzy refused rescue. Into the yards came the soldiers and in spite of the tears and cries of the inhabitants, drove off the cattle and every other kind of livestock.

In her haste to escape, Mrs. Zolnek hurled herself through a window, breaking two of her ribs. She received no medical attention until she reached America ten weeks later. In the confusion she was separated from her mother and sisters and it was not until long afterward that she found her mother in Moscow. Her father had died of starvation and she had no knowledge of the fate of her sisters.

Mrs. Zolnek, with her six-year-old son, joined a group of refugees and three weeks later they arrived in the city of Minsk. They were then loaded into freight cars and started on the long ride over the Siberian railroad to Moscow and then to Vladivostok in eastern Siberia. The refugees were literally packed into cattle cars, with no seats, no berths and no sanitary accommodations of any description. Men, women and children were herded together. There was no privacy and births and deaths were a frequent occurrence.

When Mrs. Zolnek arrived at Vladivostok she took passage for Yokohama, Japan. She then sailed on a Pacific steamer for San Francisco. There was one ray of sunshine before she ended the voyage. Coming to Hawaii, the passengers were taken off the ship at Honolulu and given a ride about the city by the American residents there, who showered them with many attentions. Mrs. Zolnek thought the Hawaiian islands a veritable paradise. The scenery, the music, the flowers, were like a fairy tale.

Mrs. Zolnek arrived at San Francisco and had no further difficulty, except in sending a telegram to her friends in West Rutland. She innocently trusted a stranger with funds to pay for the message, which she afterward discovered was rather an unfortunate financial investment, causing the loss of several dollars.

As soon as Mrs. Zolnek arrived in West Rutland she went to a physician and in due time regained her normal health. She realized that she had come "out of the jaws of death and out of the mouth of hell" How many persons could go through such perils as Mrs. Zolnek experienced and keep their sanity. It is almost beyond belief that this brave woman faced all the privations and perils of the trip and came through them with a smiling face and a dauntless spirit.

The Zolneks resided in West Rutland until 1928. According to the 1920 census a daughter had been added to the family.

As there is talk of a cold war.

Pray the war does not get hot,
That no more boys will be shot.
Let us think now and then
Of the often forgotten men
In Veterans' hospitals everywhere;
Show them we know they are there
And help them in some way
Ease the remembrance of D Day.

So let us be united and strong;
Hope our leaders let nothing go wrong,
And remind those that want war
They will be dealt a cruel score;
That we never lost a war before,
Are strong and united to win one
more.
Pray that our record will be kept clean--
This time a diplomatic victory we will win.
Rutland Hyman H. Wolk

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Book of Biographies (Rutland County Vermont) 1899

A Family of Rutland Coal Dealers

Samuel Morgan Willson, an enterprising and successful business man of Rutland, Vermont, was well known as a wholesale coal dealer, handling the coal of the Delaware & Hudson Canal Co.. Mr. Willson resided at 71 Grove Street in the house built by his father, Zacheus V.K. Willson. Samuel was director of the Clement National Bank, the Killington National Bank and the Moseley & Stoddard Manufacturing Company. He was also president of the Peoples' Gas Light Company and a stockholder in the Howe Scale Company.

Samuel Morgan Willson was born in Rutland, October 1, 1857, the son of Zacheus Van Kuren & Elsie (Morgan) Willson. His great-uncle, Robert Willson was a preacher and a prominent and earnest advocate of anti-slavery. Robert Willson offered a wonderful and most powerful anti-slavery prayer at the opening of the legislature in Albany, New York, for which he was "hung in effigy," and his library burned.

Z. V. K. Willson, Samuel's father, was born in Coldenham, NY in 1825. He began his career as a dry goods clerk in New York City, but subsequently went to St. Johns, Province of Quebec Canada as a clerk for the Lake Champlain Transportation Company. After his marriage in 1852, Mr. Willson came to Rutland, where he was station agent and afterward passenger conductor for the Rutland & Washington R.R. [a branch of the Delaware & Hudson R.R.]. He remained in the employ of that road for many years as a master of transportation and assistant superintendent. For ten years prior to his death he was their coal agent.

Z.V.K. Willson was a Republican and was a justice of the peace. He represented Rutland in the State Legislature in 1872. His death was sudden and entirely unexpected. He dropped dead at the railroad station on the 27th of March, 1881, at fifty-six years of age.

Z.V. K. Willson's son, Samuel Morgan Willson was educated in the common schools of Rutland and at the age of fifteen began a railroad career as fireman, which he followed for some months. He then began a business of sawing wood for the railroad in company with others under the firm name of Chase & Willson. [Mr. Chase was roadmaster for the Rutland & Burlington R.R.] These gentlemen sawed and moved the wood for the engines according to special contracts with the railroad. Their business prospered and the firm continued in business for about six years. Mr. Willson then joined his father in the coal business of Willson & Son. After the death of his father, Samuel continued the coal business. On October 12, 1881, Samuel married Carrie M. Wickham of Rutland. In 1886, Samuel purchased the entire coal business and changed the name to S. M. Willson. Samuel Willson was an ardent worker in the interests of Rutland. He was always ready to give substantial aid to any worthy enterprise that advanced the interests of the city.

Earle V.K. Willson was the only child of Samuel and Carrie Willson. By coincidence, Earle's name appears in the Rutland Historical Society *Quarterly*, *The 1908 Diary of Charlotte Chaffee*, Vol. 35, Nos. 2 & 3. Upon further research it was discovered that Earle was only a year older than Charlotte and both families were very close in the social circles of Rutland at that time. In some of her daily notations it would appear that Charlotte did not always appreciate Earle's attention.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, March 6, 1929

NEW CHURCH RAPIDLY NEARING COMPLETION

Robert A. Clark of Boston, who has been in Rutland since June 5, 1923, superintending the construction of the new Christ the King Church, corner of South Main Street and Killington Avenue, for James E. Cashman, Inc., Burlington contractors, will leave for Burlington where he will have charge of building the new French Catholic school in that City. Superintendent Clark has had charge of the erection of a number of well known buildings, among them the Hotel Statler in Boston, and the Burlington city hall and auditorium.

The new church has a seating capacity of about 800 persons. The main floor is 1000 or more square feet larger than the present Holy Innocents Church. One-half of the entire white marble edifice has already been done and the remainder of the work will be started as soon as weather permits. It is expected that the attractive \$200,000 white marble edifice will be entirely completed by early summer.

Rutland Daily Herald, May 24, 1929

FIREMEN TURN DAREDEVILS TO AID IN REPAIRING LOFTY NEW STEEPLE

To the small boy the life of a fireman is just one bit of heroic fire fighting after another. To members of the Rutland fire department it is just one unusual adventure after another.

The "boys in blue" have rescued stray cats from tall trees, tugged frightened horses from water holes, played Santa Claus to Rutland's poor children and taken part in any number of other unusual activities, in addition to keeping the local fire loss down.

Yesterday they had a new job. The terrific wind of last Thursday in its sweep across South Main Street loosened a considerable amount of the copper work on the steeple of Christ the King Church. The contractor in charge of the job, knowing that to build a staging up the steeple in order to allow a metal worker to reach the damaged portion would amount to considerable money and would delay the completion of the church considerably, decided to ask the fire department's help in the matter.

So, yesterday morning Louis Branchaud, James Rice, Arthur Olson and Chief Alfred H. Koltonski rolled up to the church with the department's large ladder truck. The men went to work and put the 75-foot aerial ladder up to the eaves of the church. Then James Joseph Alphonsus Rice, Rutland's daredevil fireman, climbed to the top and placed another 20-foot ladder against the base of the steeple. Rice then treated the crowd, which had congregated, to an impromptu demonstration of a 75-foot slide for life down the aerial ladder's rope.

Next, a metal worker connected with the construction company made his way up the ladder and climbed over to the damaged part of the steeple. While the crowd looked on, he repaired the storm damage, then made his way to the ground without mishap.

“We’re always ready, if anyone needs our help for a good cause,” Chief Koltonski said last night. “There’s nothing that we won’t attempt.”

July 22, 1929

PLAN TO OPEN NEW CHURCH IN AUTUMN

Christ the King Edifice Probably Will Be Completed in September.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 14, 1926

NEW BANDSTAND PLANS RECALL OLD DISPUTE

Deed of 1790 Provides No Roofed Structure Shall Be Built in Park

The foundation for the new bandstand in Main Street Park has been completed and is ready for the main body of the structure. The stand will be octagonal in shape and will be about 18 feet in diameter. According to the plans, the new building will be made of cement with re-enforced steps and floor of the same. A railing is to be erected about the platform and will also be of cement.

Whether the super-structure will be of wood or of some other material is not definitely known. According to the builders there is a possibility that the bandstand will be covered with a slate roof, although the old building did not boast such a covering. The new bandstand will replace the structure which had been in use for about 25 years and which was recently demolished to make room for the new one. The original structure came into being after a long and bitter controversy and was built partly by subscription and with funds appropriated by the city.

During the agitation which preceded the erection of the old stand it was argued that the wording of the deed which conveyed the property to the city precluded the possibility of a roofed structure being erected on the plot. For that reason the old stand was left exposed to the elements. A provision of the document provided that the land should revert to the heirs if the proviso were violated.

The land which constitutes the park was deeded to the town of Rutland just over 136 years ago, in January, 1790, by Nathan Osgood and Thomas Hale. The deed stipulated that the ground was to be "Used forever for a public common and green." The paper conveying the grounds forbade the encroachment of private "yards" and "fences" and the erection of any house.

Osgood received 18 pounds for his land, a sum of about \$90 in currency of the present time. Hale was given 10 pounds for his property or about \$50. The original deeds are preserved in the town and city records in the office of City Clerk Harry B. Whittier.

Judge Samuel Williams was the prime mover in obtaining the land for the use of the town and both deeds were signed by him.

City Report, 1926

Main Street Park was mowed and cared for during the summer months and a reinforced concrete band stand with wooden columns and roof was built there this summer.

City Report, 1927

A survey was made of Main Street park in the vicinity of the bandstand. Concrete posts were set around the stand and connected with a steel cable to keep the youngsters from swarming over the stand during concerts. Some of the old paths were harrowed and seeded down and others were aligned and covered with crushed stone. The wire fences and signs set up to protect the new grass were torn down by irresponsible hoodlums, who need a little parental discipline. Many of the trees were trimmed up and this contributed much to the general appearance of the park.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Vermont Quarterly 14: pp. 190-193, October 1946

One of the most significant factors in Vermont's social and economic history has always been the migration of her sons to other parts of the United States. There were times when the emigration assumed the proportions of a mass exodus, 1849 was one such year.

Believing that it would be to their advantage to associate themselves together and have a regular organization for the purpose of traveling from Rutland, VT by way of Mexico to San Francisco and the Gold Region of California, a group of men from Rutland formed the *Rutland California Company*. They like the men who came in the Mayflower, formed a "compact" to govern their group in their travels.

The compact was signed by: J.C. Dexter, Samuel McConnell, T.O. Tower, G.M. Goodrich, Moses Curtis, Daniel E. Harlow, E.C. Bogardus, Robert Hopkins, John Brill, John Gilman, Tho. C. McConnell, W. H. Gould, Stearns Lawrence, Joseph Martin, Horace Hayward, R.C. Hunter and S. C. Millington.

An ad appearing in the *New York Herald* on February 8, 1849 read:

"For VERA CRUZ--To Sail the Twelfth Instant: The fast sailing brig EMPIRE, Captain Baxter, is now receiving freights, and will positively be dispatched as above. The attention of Companies and others going to California by this route is called to her accommodations, which are superior in every respect, both for cabin and steerage, each of which she has a few vacancies. For particulars, apply on board Murray's Wharf, foot of Wall Street, or to Bussey & Murray, 62 South Street."

All men who signed the compact, with the exception of T. O. Tower, appear on the list of passengers leaving on the brig Empire. T.C. McConnell is listed, but it was not Thomas that went, but his younger brother Thaddeus C. McConnell, age 15, who apparently took his place.

Thomas C. McConnell followed one year later in 1850. Thomas returned to Rutland VT in 1853 and again in 1856 when he returned to marry Louisa Chaplin on June 20, 1856. On August 8, 1856, Thomas writes in their journal that they are on board the steamship Illinois and have left family and friends to go the El Dorado of the World, California. It is felt by Louisa that this is only a temporary relocation.

Sacramento Union, Wednesday, June 20, 1906

ESTIMABLE COUPLE CELEBRATE THEIR GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McConnell of McConnell's Station Keep Open House for the New Generation.

The article states that the McConnell's began their married life in the comfortable home at McConnell's Station. Mr. McConnell has always taken an active interest in all matters pertaining to the public good and has served his chosen state on many occasions, notably as a member of the constitutional convention and Mrs. McConnell has always been a pattern of womanly virtue.

The Rutland Historical Society is in possession of the McConnell's journal. Thomas writes of leaving for California in May of 1850 on the steamship Georgia. When he and his wife leave in 1856, he writes that they "take our place in the Army of Progress and march to the tune of Westward Ho! Putting our hopes on high and committing our destiny to Him who rules the universe."

A future Society Quarterly is in the planning stages with a fascinating look at life in the Gold Rush years, taken from the McConnell journal.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, March 12, 1908

PLANTING VERMONT FORESTS

A decade ago to suggest that the farmers of Vermont go into the forest planting business would have seemed a grotesque proposition. However, the setting out of forests has however come about logically. To economize and aid such a movement in this state a tree nursery was established in connection with the Agricultural College at Burlington by the Legislature of 1906.

How this State-fostered industry is prospering is told in part in a bulletin just issued by the College. "There are," says this bulletin, "thousands upon thousands of acres in Vermont which will prove more profitable for forestry than for ordinary farming. Timber lands, if rightly managed, will probably in the end bring a larger return on the investment than any other farm property. Nature, if left to herself, will clothe many of Vermont's waste lands with trees. Man should simply aim in forestry management to cooperate with nature, directing her processes so as to secure natural reforestation with valuable species as far as practicable, and supplementing this by planting where opportunity favors."

The college authorities urge that the white pine, either in pure plantation or mixed with hard woods, such as hard maple and white ash, is the most promising tree for general planting in Vermont. It will grow well on the leanest and rockiest of worn-out pastures, and on any land where spruce and maple will thrive. Last spring the demand for white pine and locust seedlings far exceeded the available supply. In no single case where forest plantings were made was failure reported, which is regarded by the officers of the station as surprising as well as gratifying considering the newness of the undertaking in this State. This spring results equally satisfactory and larger plantings are confidently anticipated.

If you ever wondered when the forests overtook Vermont's worn out farm lands, we have found the answer! Even today, one hundred years later man can cooperate with nature and help the forests by cleaning out the fallen debris and letting the trees breathe and grow. Might even help a few families heat their homes.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald & Globe, May 9, 1879

FIRE IN WEST RUTLAND

Four Dwelling Houses and Three Barns Burned

Yesterday afternoon at 3:30, a dispatch from West Rutland, signed by R. R. Mead, stating a conflagration was in progress there and calling on the Rutland fire department for assistance, was received. In response Washington engine company No. 2 and Cramton hose company were promptly at the depot with their engine and hose carriage ready for transportation. The fire apparatus was quickly loaded on a flat car and the members of the companies and several citizens stowing themselves about the car, the engine J. H. Williams was attached to it, and driven by Engineer Frost and Fireman Howe, started briskly for the scene of action.

Gathering speed with every moment the train to the rescue fairly jumped along the ties--people along the line waving hats, handkerchiefs and shouting to encourage the iron horse on its way. In six minutes after starting from the Rutland depot the train stopped at West Rutland and the fire apparatus was dismounted and rapidly moved by the companies under charge of Chief Engineer Landon to the place of the fires on Clarendon Avenue. Arriving there it was found the buildings on fire were nearly consumed.

The engine was stationed on the bridge across the small stream traversing the farm of A. J. Mead; the brook was dammed, the suction hose placed in it and under direction of Foreman Kenney the men went to work with a will and a stream of water was soon rapidly subduing the flames to the great relief of the "bucket brigade." All danger of the fire spreading was over in a few moments after the stream of No. 2 was brought into play.

The buildings were: the dwelling house of Richard Lane, entirely consumed; J. E. Manley's house and barn, entirely consumed; the house and barn of H. D. Gorham, entirely consumed; the house and barn of J. E. Harmon, entirely consumed; the house and furniture belonging to Mrs. Miriam Burr, saved but badly damaged; The dwelling and furniture of John Mortrom, considerably damaged; W. H. Woodward's house and barn, damaged somewhat; J. B. Smith and Mrs. Morgan had their furniture slightly damaged in removal from the fire. Most of the furniture was removed to the yards of Chalon Blanchard, John S. Tuttle and George W. Peck.

The fire had started in the chimney of the house of Richard Lane and had gained so much headway when discovered as to render the saving of it an impossibility with the limited facilities at hand for the purpose. The flames extended to the other houses rapidly, jumping the house owned by Mrs. Burr and firing and consuming J. E. Harmon's immediately adjoining on the south. The burned buildings were all comparatively new and situated on Clarendon Avenue, one of the most pleasant thoroughfares in that village. This is the most extensive conflagration that has occurred in the village and makes an ugly gap in that neighborhood.

Members of the Baxter and other hose and engine companies also were at the fires and assisted materially. By six o'clock there was no longer any danger from the fire and the firemen were invited to the Barnes House by the citizens of West Rutland and entertained with supper and cigars and returned to Rutland about 7:30 p.m..

Fires often have sidebars of human interest. Perhaps the most striking were the 32 small boys cracking butternuts on the pavement in front of the burning buildings as the firemen fought the fire. A little fellow, six or seven years old, walked all the way from East to West Rutland "to see the fire." He saw it, and was happy in securing a ride back in the engine. The most humorous may have been the "bucket brigade," laboring bravely on the roof of Mrs. Burr's residence, who had to vacate their prominent position suddenly when the nozzle to No. 2's hose was elevated in their direction.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 5, 1924

VENERABLE COVERED WOODEN BRIDGE AT CENTER RUTLAND SOON TO BECOME A LEGEND

Another of the covered wooden bridges, once common on every Vermont highway, is to disappear with the demolition of the structure over Otter Creek at Center Rutland a short distance below the falls. The work of tearing down the bridge which has stood about as it is today for 49 years, probably will be started in a few days in connection with the building of a cement road between Rutland and West Rutland. A cement bridge will span the creek, paralleling the trolley car bridge.

A covered bridge, looking much like the one over which hundreds of vehicles, including heavy trucks now pass every day, stood on the site of the present one during the boyhood of the oldest residents of Center Rutland. In 1874 the old bridge was burned in connection with a fire in a sheep pelt tannery which stood on the bank of the stream. A store went up in flames at the same time.

Not until sometime the following year, 1875, was the present bridge erected by the town of Rutland at the same spot where the burned one had been.

The flooring of the older structure was slightly lower than that over which the traffic now passes and when the creek was at flood height the water occasionally flowed through the mills and there was a big set-back under the falls so that the creek level was higher than it is today.

The proposed cement bridge, lacking the high sides, will enable persons passing over it in vehicles to obtain an unobstructed view of the falls. This is considered a picturesque sight, particularly at the time of freshet [overflowing].

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, March 12, 1908

Educating the "Office Boy"

Not content with the wonderful work it has done among the boys of the land, the Young Men's Christian Association has undertaken a tremendous task in several of the larger cities. It proposes to educate office boys by giving a course of instruction in their intricate duties. Reports of progress cannot yet be made, but we can see without much effort that the Association has a huge task on its hands. It has gathered unruly youngsters from the streets and drilled them into the elements of successful men. It has invaded the slums, and saved to usefulness what, without its endeavors, would have proven driftwood and derelicts on the seas of life. It has gone wherever boys roam and has saved many brands from the burning, but most of the work, exciting and interesting as it has been, pales into dullness compared with the task now proposed.

The office boy is a distinct species. His name appears seldom on either the police records or the Sunday School rolls. His early training and environments are not traceable. As a rule, he is never heard of until in response to the advertisement "Boy wanted." He comes in, hangs up his cap and begins to cause trouble. The Young Men's Christian Association plans, as a starter, to give the office boy instruction in the use of the telephone. He does not need it. He may never have seen a telephone in his life, but before lunch hour arrives on his first day of service, he has learned to distinguish the voice of the "boss's" wife from that of other callers and requires no coaching to inform persistent creditors that "the old man" has just been called to Boston and will not return for a week. By the same intuition he carries on a conversation over the phone which lets the entire office force understand that he has no use for the head bookkeeper, while the blonde stenographer gets a quiet tip that a friend is coming at twelve-thirty to take her to lunch. He knows, off hand, how you sort out visitors, spotting bores, book agents, collectors and other nuisances at a glance and disposes of them with dispatch, while business men get prompt access to the inner sanctum. He appreciates his responsibility and makes others to feel it. He knows when and where he may whistle and when to look meek and humble. He knows human nature and how to meet it in its varying moods.

Of course, a field exists for Young Men's Christian Association training for boys who serve in offices, but it is wasting time trying to educate the office boy. He is born, not made.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Excerpt from the July 1943 issue of *Transportation Magazine*, reprinted in *Savvy & Sage*, September/October 2007

1943 Guide to Hiring Women

These eleven tips on getting more efficiency out of women employees were written for male supervisors of women in the work force during World War II

1. Pick young married women. They usually have more of a sense of responsibility than their unmarried sisters, they're less likely to be flirtatious, they need the work or they wouldn't be doing it, they still have the pep and interest to work hard and to deal with the public efficiently.
2. When you have to use older women, try to get ones who have worked outside the home at some time in their lives. Older women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting themselves and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy. It's always well to impress upon older women the importance of friendliness and courtesy.
3. General experience indicates that "husky" girls - those who are just a little on the heavy side - are more even tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
4. Retain a physician to give each woman you hire a special physical examination - one covering female conditions. This step not only protects the business against the possibilities of lawsuit, but reveals whether the employee-to-be has any female weaknesses which would make her mentally or physically unfit for the job.
5. Stress at the outset the importance of time, the fact that a minute or two lost here and there makes serious inroads on schedules. Until this point is gotten across, service is likely to be slowed up.
6. Give the female employee a definite day-long schedule of duties so that they'll keep busy without bothering the management for instructions every few minutes. Wome authorities say that women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but that they lack initiative in finding work themselves.
7. Whenever possible, let the inside employee change from one job to another at some time during the day. Women are inclined to be less nervous and happier with change.
8. Give every girl an adequate number of rest periods during the day. You have to make some allowances for feminine psychology. A girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.

9. Be tactful when issuing instructions or in making criticisms. Women are often sensitive; they can't shrug off harsh words the way men do. Never ridicule a woman - it breaks her spirit and cuts off her efficiency.

10. Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women. Even though a girl's husband or father may swear vociferously, she'll grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much of this.

11. Get enough size variety in operator's uniforms so that each girl can have a proper fit. This point can't be stressed too much in keeping women happy.

When I worked for the New England Telephone Company in the 50s, my friend, who was left-handed, was almost denied a job. They hired her on a trial basis to see if she could function as well as right-handed people. They were surprised to find that there was no problem!

My how our laws and policies have changed since the days of "our finest generation."

Tidbits From Then and Now

[Sunday January 19, 1868 at 2:00 a.m. there was a devastating fire that destroyed the Cramton Block on Merchants Row]

Rutland Daily Herald, January through September 1868

The Rebuilding of Rutland

January 23: Proposed Street Extension. We notice that since the fire on Sunday morning last, a petition is being circulated by parties interested, to have Willow Street extended from its present terminus through the recently burned lot to Merchants' Row. This project, if successful, will greatly enhance the value of property on Willow Street and make inviting the appearance of our village.

January 25: New buildings: The buildings being erected by John W. Cramton on the Bardwell House lot, for the temporary use of his late tenants in Cramton's block, are being pushed rapidly forward and will be ready for occupation in a couple of weeks.

January 27: We are informed it is the intention of J. W. Cramton to at once commence the erection of four stores on his lot north of the Bardwell House, one of which we hear will be occupied by George H. Palmer, another by Paine, Bowman & Company and a third by Ben K. Chase and N.V. Brooks. The same enterprising owner is, we believe, to commence at an early day the erection of a building on the site of the one just destroyed, a course which Mr. Bailey informs us he will take in regard to his building.

February 21: "Beehive Block": This is the name given to the new block erected by Mr. Cramton on Merchants' Row, between Washington and Center Streets. The name is very appropriate, as industry has characterized it from the moment of the laying of its foundation up to the present time. In just twenty-two days from the time of its commencement, it was occupied and this in mid-winter, notwithstanding that the building is erected in a substantial manner and with a view to the comfort of its occupants. The south store of the new block is occupied by Paine, Bowman & Co., clothiers; the middle store by Ben K. Chase, jeweler and N. V. Brooks, dealer in music and stationery and the north store by George H. Palmer, dealer in dry goods, all of whom, notwithstanding a serious interruption of their business by the late disastrous fire, are being liberally patronized.

April 18: Cramton's Block on Merchants' Row to replace the burned block is going up rapidly and yesterday mechanics were engaged in laying timbers for the first floor.

April 22: The Willow Street Extension--The commissioners appointed by the County Court to consider the propriety and necessity of extending Willow Street to Merchants' Row held a meeting at the office of Dunton & Veazey on Monday afternoon and evening and decided that the extension was at present uncalled for by the business necessities of the village. This, we believe, settles the matter, which has occasioned much discussion by interested parties, since the

destruction of Cramton's Block by fire last winter. Messrs. Dunton and Evarts appeared for the petitioners and Col. W. G. Veazey for the town. [Apparently Mr. Cramton had already begun rebuilding and the idea of extending Willow Street to Merchants' Row through his burned down property became a moot point].

May 9: Replacement Building--Cramton's Block is going up rapidly, and already the walls are completed to the second story and the floor timbers thereof will probably be laid today.

May 23: Cramton's Block on Merchants' Row is going up rapidly and the iron front is already being put in on the first floor.

June 27: Cramton's Block is well along towards the third story and is being hurried to completion with commendable alacrity.

July 25: Cramton's Block, which, by the way, is to be the best business block on Merchants' Row, is well along, at least so far as the rough work is concerned, toward completion. The roof timbers are already laid and in the space of a few days the interior work will be commenced and the stores in the block made ready for occupation early in the fall.

September 5: The large brick block, in progress of completion by Messrs. Cramton, Simons, Gilson and Bailey on Merchant's Row, presents a lively appearance during working hours, somewhat resembling a bee-hive [not to be confused with the "Beehive Block"] there being a large number of workmen, carpenters and plasterers working busily to get the stores on the lower floor ready for use. There are seven large stores in this block, four owned by Mr. J. W. Cramton and one each by Messrs. Gilson, Simons and Bailey.

September 5: C.F. Richardson's hotel, corner of Wales and Center Streets, is already for its roof. This building is four stories in height--one story higher than any building in town. Arrangements are made to have two stores on Wales Street side, the remainder will be devoted to a hotel [Stevens House, later The Berwick].

The Rutland Courier, April 17, 1868

From early morn until dusky eve the noise of the hammer and saw is heard in our midst. Disastrous fires may burn down house after house, block after block, yet for every building destroyed ten are being erected. Rutland is growing rapidly and is destined to be a large place. Only give us the Woodstock Railroad and our population will be nearly doubled in the next ten years. If mechanics or laborers wish employment, let them come to Rutland. Large numbers of workmen are now employed on Cramton's Block, Bailey & Simons' Block and Landon's Block on Merchants' Row and on Richardson's new hotel, corner of Center and Wales Streets. These, together with a large number of dwelling houses in the village and its suburbs, give employment to several hundred men.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Independent, July 27, 1867

SEWAGE

A meeting of the corporation of the village of Rutland was held at the Town Hall for the purpose of further considering the matter of constructing a system of sewerage in our village. Dr. Goldsmith, from the Committee appointed at a previous meeting, made the following report:

The condition of things existing in our village, for the remedy of which your commission was appointed to consider the ways and means, seems to embrace two separate matters: the surface stagnant water and the subsoil stagnant water as well as the garbage of houses and excreta of men and animals. The evils which pertain to these condition are various and manifold.

Those which pertain to accumulations of surface water and a wet subsoil are in part economical and in part sanitary. The economical evils are those which manifest themselves in a cold, late and limited vegetation (for instance pears, grapes, cherries etc. and all vegetables); the dampness of many cellars renders them measurably useless and rots the foundation timbers of dwellings; and the retention of rain water which renders the streets muddy, mirey and in some seasons, almost impassable, requiring the hauling of gravel and other annual repairs. This requires an outlay of money almost equal to the yearly interest of the cost of a complete and perfect system of sewerage.

The disease producing influence of a wet subsoil may be inferred from the fact that Pittenpoker, the greatest hygienist living, predicted that the city where he lived would escape the ravages of the cholera that was developing everywhere in the country, because the subsoil of his city was dry. The city did escape the disease. The second advent of the disease, the subsoil was saturated with water and the city did not escape the disease.

The evils pertaining to the non-removal of garbage and excreta concern personal comfort, public decency and the public health. With the present state of things, water closets, one of the greatest comforts in a household are impracticable. The discomforts of a fetid privy [backhouse] to be reached through rain and mud, need no comment. The health question is one which dominates all others.

There are but two methods of removal known and practicable. One is called by hygienists the dry method and is utterly impracticable on account of its cost. The other is by sewerage, the plan your commission recommends. The whole system embraces several water sheds, one that now runs through Edsonville [formerly where Edson Street existed and the parking garage is now located]. Into this flows the drainage of Main Street from near its northern extremity to Washington Street, Center, West, Elm, Cottage, Grove, Pine and all the streets crossing these, into East Creek. A second embraces the territory east of Main and the lower part of Main, emptying into Moon Brook. A third embracing Nebraska [Southwest section of Rutland] flowing into the first, or else running by a separate outlet into East Creek.

The members of the commission visited other places to study materials used in the construction of sewers and the method of construction. It was found that except for the largest sewers, earthen pipe was generally used and was found to be cheaper and better. The commission has unanimously recommended the building of one main brick sewer, beginning in West Street, near the Episcopal Church and running to East Creek along West Street. Whether it would be best to continue along the street to the creek, or to turn southward near the culvert under the Rutland and Burlington Railroad, passing through it to reach East Creek along the line of the natural drainage now existing would be determined by the construction hands. All the rest of the sewers required can be made of earthen pipes.

The commission recommends that the main sewer be built at once and that smaller sewers should be laid as the necessities of the village require. All inlets into all sewers shall be properly trapped. The whole village should be surveyed and whatever part is built, should be so constructed and placed that it shall conform and be an integral part of one general plan.

It was voted (61 to 28) to build the main sewer in accordance with the recommendation of the Committee, and a tax of forty cents on the dollar, with a deduction of five cents to all who pay to the Treasurer on or before October 15th, was voted to aid in its construction. The employ of civil engineers for the purpose of carrying on the public works was authorized.

Tidbits From Then and Now

A tribute to Miss Agnes Sargent by Elna Senecal Butterfield

School Days With Miss Sargent

Post Road's little one-room school ended its near century-long service in June 1948. The year I finished seventh grade. It was the end of an era. It was also the end of Miss Sargent's teaching career.

Post School, on Post Road in Rutland Town, was not unlike many of Vermont's schools then---a one-room school with minimal teaching materials and one lone teacher whose job was to provide high quality education for all eight grades. It was quite an incredible task for one teacher.

Those of us who went to Post school were fortunate, even though many of us had to walk nearly a mile to get there. We had a teacher of amazing ability, tenacity and love of children---Miss Agnes Sargent.

Her entire career was teaching in that little one-room schoolhouse, devoting her life and talents to the families on Post Road. She began there in 1906. She taught two generations, including my mother. During my time, there were usually about twenty pupils ages six to fourteen in her classroom. Because there was no kindergarten, some first-graders arrived with no knowledge of colors, numbers or reading. It was Miss Sargent's job to orient these children and educate us all.

She was a marvel in management, giving personal attention and instruction to each grade level, sometimes dove-tailing grades, while always keeping a watchful eye on all the others as they worked quietly at their desks. She was in command, with an amazing combination of warmth, understanding, humor, and firmness. I don't recall Miss Sargent raising her voice, but she ruled with an iron hand.

Our classroom was heated with a pot-bellied stove that was surrounded with a huge metal jacket. That stove dominated the room and kept us warm throughout the winters.

Martin Douglass, a neighboring farmer, started the fire early each winter morning, filling the stove's big belly with chunks of wood well before Miss Sargent's arrival. Tending the fire during the day was Miss Sargent's responsibility, however.

A door from the classroom opened into a dirt-floored woodshed. This was off-limits for students, with the exception of one older boy who was designated as "fire-tender" for that day. On Miss Sargent's request at various times throughout his day, he went to the woodshed, brought in an armful of wood and fed the fire. This was a prestigious assignment, and whichever boy was recruited always squared his shoulders and did his task proudly.

I remember the musty smell of wood sap and the damp chill that invaded the schoolroom whenever the woodshed door was opened. To me the woodshed was a forbidding, dark and scary place. It was a place I **never** wanted to go.

The woodshed was where Miss Sargent sometimes took a misbehaving pupil for a private scolding or punishment. I remember one day when my brother Glen was marched to the woodshed as we all watched with wide eyes, and not a few smirks.

Miss Sargent, ruler in hand, ushered him into that dreaded woodshed and closed the door behind her. Time seemed suspended as we waited in dead silence. Then we heard it! **“Whack, whack, whack!”** Then dead silence again, for what seemed a very long time.

At last the door opened and Glen came back to his seat, eyes downcast and quite solemn and subdued. We knew he deserved his punishment. He had been poking and disrupting his neighbors, despite Miss Sargent’s repeated reprimands. He had it coming!

Back in those days, if a teacher deemed it necessary to punish with a slap or a whack or a firm hand on a pupil’s arm or ear, it was considered acceptable. The teacher was responsible for her classroom. Parents usually agreed that “he got what he deserved.”

But in all those years, before and after this event, I do not recall ever seeing Miss Sargent strike anyone or use physical punishment of any kind. So for me, Glen’s trip to the woodshed was a landmark happening!

It was years later when Glen finally told me what really happened in the woodshed that day. Miss Sargent closed the door behind her and stood there in that dark, dank room, looking at him. He waited, gulping in dreaded anticipation of what was to come. Then she quietly said, “Glen, when I am done, you are to go back to your seat and behave yourself. And if you **ever** tell anyone what happened here, next time I really **will** hit you!”

And with that, she raised her big wooden ruler and struck the woodpile smartly, **“Whack, whack, whack!”**

Glen graduated from eighth grade with “flying colors”. Graduation was a town-wide affair, with all the schools joining for the ceremony held in the basement of the Center Rutland School. Glen was selected to recite from memory Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address, which he did very well---thanks to Miss Sargent.

[Elna Senecal Butterfield is writing a series of books entitled *My Times Remembered*. Her first book of the series is titled, *School Days* and contains many recollections similar to the above story. *School Days* is available on line at www.lulu.com.]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, August 10, 1889

The following are interesting examples of regular columns found in the old daily papers. People knew about one another one hundred plus years ago. It really shows how times, neighbors and news changed.

ABOUT TOWN

The mail train from Burlington was 30 minutes late yesterday morning.

Mr. G. F. North has had a telephone placed in his office on Merchants' Row.

The adjourned sale of the Fagan property will take place this afternoon at 2 o'clock. [This sale was postponed from the day before because of rain].

The band did not give a concert last evening, owing to the slight shower early in the evening.

The funeral of Mrs. Lamira Fillmore will be held at the Globe Hotel at 2 o'clock this afternoon.

The Montreal sleeping train was an hour late last night, being delayed by a freight train off the track at St. Albans.

Mr. Nichols of Northfield has been appointed a railway postal clerk on the route between Essex Junction and Boston. He succeeds G.L. Fletcher of Chester.

There are now three locomotives in the Central Vermont shops, and one of them, which belongs to the New London Northern road, is nearly ready to come out.

The Western roads have recently been cutting rates, and a through ticket can be bought to any point in Colorado for \$3.90 less than what the price has heretofore been.

Dr. B.C. Senton, who recently came to Rutland from Whitehall, has leased the north portion of the Tuttle house on North Main Street and expects to move into it next week.

There will be another excursion to Camp Comfort on Wednesday, Aug. 21, and should the day be pleasant there is likely to be double the attendance that there was at the first excursion.

The Tuttle Co. has just completed the printing of the school registers and are now sending them to towns throughout the state. It will take about three days to pack and address all the bundles.

In going from the railroad station to the Bates House on Aug. 6, a shell comb for ladies' hair was lost. The owner prizes it for its associations and offers a reward of \$5 to anyone who will return it to the Herald office.

The Good Templars of the county met at Bixby's, at Lake Bomoseen, on Wednesday, for their annual picnic. There were about 56 in the party--35 from Phoenix Lodge of Fair Haven, 15 from Rutland and 6 from Poultney.

Rev. F. E. Clark, D.D., founder of the Society of Christian Endeavor, and Rev. J. L. Sewall of Plymouth, Mass., former president of the Vermont State Christian Endeavor Society will be present at the state convention to be held in Rutland on Oct. 30 and 31.

This column was followed by:

PERSONAL

Examples:

- T. L. Drury is confined to the house by illness.
- Miss Belle Carmody is visiting her sister, Mrs. M. W. Everin of No. 13 Baxter Street.
- Mr. Mietzke has been re-engaged as pianist at the Stevens House at Lake Placid by the proprietor of the hotel for the remainder of the season.
- Dr. G. M. Fox and son of La Grange, Ill., arrived in town last evening and are the guests of Dr. Fox and family on Cottage Street.
- Gen. Hugh Henry, wife and two children of Chester, C. E. Bush of Orwell and Hon. H. G. Root of Bennington are registered at the Bardwell.
- Mrs. George A. Mietzke, who has been to Lake Placid in the Adirondacks for the past two weeks, has returned home.
- Mrs. M. T. Hamilton is visiting friends in Springfield, after which she will pass a short vacation at the sea-shore, returning home in about three weeks.
- Dr. Amelia E. Brown went to Benson yesterday and will return to Rutland next Monday afternoon.
- Mr. and Mrs. C. P. Harris left town yesterday for Marblehead Neck, about 15 miles from Boston, and will be absent about three weeks.
- Misses Cecile and Maud Bond, who have been visiting Mrs. M. R. Brown on South Main Street, returned to their home in Pittsfield, Mass, yesterday.

These old newspapers are so full of interesting information that it is very time consuming to find and pick tidbits. I couldn't do it alone and want to thank Morris Tucker for his support with contributions, while he was researching old papers for his own projects.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, Wednesday, May 11, 1887: The members of the Rutland nine are now practicing every day on the baseball grounds and are showing up in fine shape. .

Friday, May 13, 1887: The first game of the season on the Rutland grounds will be played this afternoon by the Middlebury College and Rutland nines. The college nine is said to be strong this season and they have been in active practice for several weeks. Rutland people will have an opportunity to see the home club play for the first time. The admission to the game will be 25 cents for gentlemen, 15 cents for ladies, and 10 cents for children under 12 years. Admission to the grand stand will be 10 cents extra.

Monday, May 16, 1887: The Street Railway Company announces that hereafter at all games they will run cars to the baseball grounds every ten minutes. The managers of the association have sold the privilege of a refreshment stand on the grounds to Jesse Spencer and Alvah Pierce, and they will be prepared to serve their friends at the next game, Wednesday afternoon. The new uniforms of the Rutland nine are expected here today, and will be worn for the first time in Wednesday's game with the St. Albans club.

Wednesday, May 18, 1887: Expectations are high for the exhibition game to be given tomorrow by the Rutland and St. Albans clubs. Abbot and Harris will probably be the battery for the Rutland team. The game will be called at 3:30 o'clock. The managers of the Rutland association have expended over \$600 in building the fence and grandstand and fitting up the grounds. The *Glens Falls Times* says: "It is rumored that Harris, who is now in Rutland, wishes to return to Fort Edward and play ball this season. The verdure clad hills of the Green Mountain state posses evidently no charms for the ball tosser."

Friday, May 20, 1887: Mr. Archibald's rebuke to those who hooted at the St Albans men when they made a mis-play in the game on Wednesday was well deserved. It is almost needless to remark that the umpiring by F. C. Archibald at Wednesday's game gave eminent satisfaction to both sides. He is conceded to be the most exact and conscientious umpire in this section. Mr. H. L. Chadwick of St. Albans was scorer.

Peren and Harris will be the Rutland battery at the game in St. Albans tomorrow. Mr. Chadwick will score and the St. Alban's management will supply an umpire. The Rutland team will take the 8:45 a.m. train Saturday. A special baseball rate of \$4 for the round trip has been secured, and friends of the club who wish to see the game may obtain tickets at the same rate. The regular fare for the round trip is \$6. The train will arrive at St. Albans at 12:40 p.m. but the game will probably not commence until 4 o'clock.

Monday, May 23, 1887: Saturday's game at St. Albans clearly demonstrated the present superiority of St. Albans over the Rutland nine. It is necessary for the Rutland men to explain their reason for dropping six runs to St. Albans in the first inning and eight in the seventh, literally giving away the game in two innings. The St. Albans team made some errors but they were not costly ones. They played well together and were captained well. Their game was finer in

every respect than that at of their opponents. Harris played a faultless game and is conceded to be the best man in either nine. Daley and Carrigan also did good work at the bat and in the field, these three doing all the baseball playing that was indulged in by Rutland. The management of the Rutlands in the field was faulty and did not bring out all that was in the nine. A change is imperatively necessary if the association wishes to keep up the interest of Rutland people in the game, and to make a success of the season for which so much has been promised. The bystanders expressed the opinion that the Rutland pitchers were useless and their record seems to sustain the opinion. The final score was St. Albans 18 and Rutland 10.

A note of interest on the same day: An exciting game of baseball was played at West Rutland Saturday afternoon between nines composed of employees of the finishing departments of Sheldon & Sons and Gilson & Woodfin. The game resulted in a victory for the former team. M. W. Erwin was the umpire. Following are the names of the players: Sheldon & Sons--Burke, J. Moloney, Crowley, Tighe, Segar, A. Maloney, Powers, McCormick and Munford. Gilson & Woodfin: Mullany, J. Mulheran, Segar, McCarthy, Mulheran, Brean, Nason, Tighe and Lynch. Shelton & Sons won 13 to 12.

Friday, May 27, 1887: The second baseball game in the championship series was to have been played on the Rutland grounds yesterday by the St. Albans and Rutland nines, but was stopped at the close of the second inning by rain. The umpire gave the game to the home team by a score of 9 to 0. Although there was a threatening look to the clouds in the early part of the afternoon, fully 700 people assembled on the grounds to witness the game. The home team was considerably strengthened by the addition of three new players, Frank Madigan, who played with the Oswegos in 1885-86 in the international league; D.J. Ryan formerly with the Boston Blues. Ryan has won the name of "Cyclone" as he is a swift thrower and J.J. Beecher who played with the Lawrence club and is a heavy left-handed hitter and has won the name of "stone fence" on account of his good catching. Rutland now has a prospect of being represented by a strong club.

[There will be a roundtable discussion devoted to Rutland's baseball history on Saturday morning, May 17th at 10:00 a.m. at the Rutland Historical Society, 96 Center Street. Free admission and all are welcome.]

Tidbits From Then and Now

TAKE A VACATION

“SUNNY NOOK”

First, the crow on the wing--the song of spring.
Ere the flash of a tear the summer is here!
Then the babbling brook, and the sunny nook.

We've the rosy dawn; the sunlit noon:
The hush which comes with the rising moon.
The Shadowy mountains which grit us round;
Drowsy bird-notes as the sun drops down.

Comes the purpling dusk, which holds in thrall
The silent beauty of twilight's fall.
Yes, we're far from the turmoil of man's abode,
For we're just a wee stretch from -
The End of the road! --E.C.

QUIET HOME FOR OVER-NIGHT and

WEEKEND GUESTS

RATES

\$2.00 for Double Room

\$1.50 for Single Room

Supper and Breakfast---50 cents each
Home Cooking

SUNNY NOOK FARM
Rutland, Vermont

15 Post Road

Phone 359-12

TAKE A TOUR

The Rutland Independent, June 26, 1869

During the session of the State Convention at Rutland, Wednesday, His Excellency, Governor John B. Page, extended an invitation to the gentlemen present to go on an excursion to the West Rutland marble quarries, after the adjournment of the Convention. Nearly the whole Convention accepted the invitation and the Governor, Mr. Charles Sheldon, General William Y. W. Ripley, Mr. Baxter and other Rutland gentlemen and marble princes were assiduous in their kind attentions in pointing out the leading objects of interest. All, who had never before seen the quarries, were taken wholly by surprise at the magnitude of the business and were filled with a sense of the sublime at the sight of the deep resounding quarries. The Governor then told the party that the territory covering all those quarries was sold, within the memory of men now living, for the consideration of one old mare and colt; and in reply to the inquiry of a gentleman, he said it could not now be purchased for millions. Aside from agriculture, probably the marble business of Rutland is the leading interest of Vermont and we know of several hundred gentlemen who feel especially grateful to Governor Page for "showing it up."

AND WHILE YOU'RE HERE, STOP AT THE STORE

Rutland Daily Herald, May 14, 1868

The Chaffee or Strong Store

It was built by Moses Strong, 1812-13. Its first occupant was Dr. James Porter, with drugs and goods. In 1817 Dr. Porter moved into his new brick store, north of the Common. Moses Neal occupied the Strong store with goods for two or three years, and failed. James Barrett, having, as a member of the firm of James Barrett, Jr., & Co., sold goods in the three storied store for three years, did business alone in the Strong store from 1822 to 1837. Both the rooms above and below have been used at different times as law offices, by Judge Strong, Lyman Granger, Rodney C. Royce and others.

The lower rooms were used as a store for the sale of goods, by John Strong, from 1838 to 1843 and by O. L. Robbins from 1844 to 1851, when Frederick Chaffee, having bought the Dr. Ross premises of the heirs of Moses Strong for \$2,000, went into possession, raised and very thoroughly improved the store. The price paid by Dr. James Ross, who bought the premises in 1866, was \$6,500. The store, when burnt, was insured in the Vt. Mutual for \$1,800.

The site of the Chaffee or Strong brick store was occupied previously to 1812 by a story and a half wood building. In 1806 this was occupied by Capt. William Baker as a shoe shop. The Mr. Brown, who was mixed up in the Joe Green murder, kept a book-bindery there several years. About 1807 Dr. James Porter began business there as a druggist and merchant, and there continued until 1812.

VENI - - - - - VIDI - - - - - ERNI
I came I saw I bought

C.F. Richardson to erect hotel building at Center Street and Wales Street corner. (Rutland County Independent-July 4, 1866)
C.F. Richardson purchased northwest corner lot - Center and Wales for \$4,500 from F. Mowrey. (May 11, 1867)
Work on new hotel in progress. (February 22, 1868)

The old Episcopal Church on Main Street sold to J.D. GREEN for \$1125.00. (May 4, 1867)

Bate's House lets it's light shine from a lamppost recently erected.

The old Baptist Church, a landmark of Rutland, having been sold to Ex-Governor Page, is fast being demolished. An incident in the the history of the erection of this building is that the now eloquent and popular preacher, Rev. E.L. Magoon, D.D., of Philadelphia, worked upon it as a bricklayer. (Rutland Daily Herald - April 12, 1872)

THE RUTLAND INDEPENDENT
June 26, 1869

THE RUTLAND MARBLE QUARRIES.—During the session of the State Convention at Rutland, Wednesday, His Excellency, Governor John B. Page, extended an invitation to the gentlemen present to go on an excursion to the West Rutland marble quarries, after the adjournment of the Convention. Nearly the whole Convention accepted the invitation, and the Governor, Mr. Charles Sheldon, General William Y. W. Ripley Mr. Baxter, and other Rutland gentlemen and marble princes were assiduous in their kind attentions in pointing out the leading objects of interest. All, who had never before seen the quarries, were taken wholly by surprise at the magnitude of the business, and were filled with a sense of the sublime at the sight of the deep resounding quarries. The Governor then told the party that the territory covering all those quarries was sold, within the memory of men now living, for the consideration of one old mare and colt; and in reply to the inquiry of a gentleman, he said it could not now be purchased for millions. Aside from agriculture, probably the marble business of Rutland is the leading interest of Vermont, and we know of several hundred gentlemen who feel especially grateful to Governor Page for "showing it up."—*Messenger*.

Rutland Daily Herald
May 14, 1868

The Chaffee or Strong Store.

BY HENRY HALL, ESQ.

It was built by Moses Strong, 1812-13. Its first occupant was Dr. James Porter, with drugs and goods. In 1817 Dr. Porter moved into his new brick store, north of the Common. Moses Neal occupied the Strong store with goods for two or three years, and failed. James Barrett, having, as a member of the firm of James Barrett, Jr., & Co., sold goods in the three-storied store for three years, did business alone in the Strong store from 1822 to 1837. Both the rooms above and below have been used at different times as law offices, by Judge Strong, Lyman Granger, Rodney C. Royce and others.

The lower rooms were used as a store for the sale of goods, by John Strong, from 1838 to 1843, and by O. L. Robbins from 1844 to 1851, when Frederick Chaffee, having bought the Dr. Ross premises of the heirs of Moses Strong for \$2,000, went into possession, raised and very thoroughly improved the store. The price paid by Dr. James Ross, who bought the premises in 1866, was \$6,500. The store, when burnt, was insured in the Vt. Mutual for \$1,800.

The site of the Chaffee or Strong brick store was occupied previous to 1812 by a story and a half wood building. In 1806 this was occupied by Capt. William Baker as a shoe shop. The Mr. Brown, who was mixed up in the Joe Green murder, kept a book-bindery there several years. About 1807 Dr. James Porter began business there as a druggist and merchant, and there continued until 1812.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, May 30, 1887

THE MEMORIAL EXERCISES TODAY

If today is pleasant there will be a large turnout of people to participate in the Memorial Day exercises. Post Roberts and friends will go to West Rutland on the horse cars, leaving at 8 o'clock, returning at Noon. The different organizations will form in line at 1:45 p.m., and march to the hall [Memorial Hall where the Post Office is today] where the exercises will begin at 2 o'clock. The selectmen and boards of trustees will be given places in the procession in front of the Kingsley Guard and the fire companies will be given places to the left of Post Roberts. The quartet which is to sing at the exercises will consist of Miss Bertha George, Mrs. Hattie Stillman, Mrs. H. B. Whittier and Mr. Oscar Benton. At Evergreen Cemetery the Grand Army services will be performed at the Post lot around the grave of Comrade Eddy.

A List of the Graves to be Decorated

West Street Cemetery

John F. Austin	J. D. Kelly
Samuel P. Bailey	L. S. Kellogue
Charles C. Backus	Phillip Lasalle
C.A. Bosworth	H. T. Parker
Henry Cain	Cyrus P. Rising
Henry T. Derrance	Isaac Race
Edwin D. Davis	Luke Rise
John Derrigan	C.C. Root
T. N. Elliot	Samuel Stocker
George Elliot	Henry T. Smith
James L. Foster	William Scotts
Edward Hinckley	James Thompson
John Hinckley	John Hance

Evergreen Cemetery

B. A. Alvord	Elisha Haskel
G. E. Brown	L. Hodgkins
E. A. Bailey	James W. Keyes
John Boardwell	James Knowles
Horace Barney	N. B. Lewis
Asa Berry	H. W. Lindsley
E. T. Birdsall	F. Litchfield
A. B. Cain	James Mason
William J. Cain	L. A. McLure
Willard Campbell	Supply Nims
E. R. Coppins	R. D. Nims
Daniel Danforth	W. T. Nichols

[old] Catholic Cemetery [on West Street]

Charles Allen	Patrick Mongar
Edward Abar	David Oney
Henry L. Bailey	George A. Quilty
James Burns	John Reiley
Patrick Barney	T. Sheridan
Thomas Healey	T. Sullivan
Thomas Hartney	T. Wilson
John Lavalley	Patrick Walters
John E. McGinnis	Michael Murphy
Martin McManus	

Old Cemetery, Center Rutland

Nicholas Lamb

Main Street Cemetery

A. A. Long

Greeno Cemetery [North Grove St.]

Charles E. Wales

Cemetery, Gleason District

Silas Foster William Foster

George Q. Day
Levi Pierce
James H. Dyer
George Eddy
W. G. Edgerton
G. T. Flanders
Francis Fenn
Reuben A. Field
N.J. Green
J. D. Green
C. F. Huntoon
C. Harthorn
J. H. Hazelton
D. B. Haynes
James Hardy

E. S. Nelson
W. M. Parmenter
Geo. T. Roberts
Oscar Robinson
Geo. H. Ray
S. G. Staley
J.A. Sallsbury
W.H. Squires
C. H. Staples
George Thayer
William Thayer
George W. Warren
A. W. White
Gay Zolman

French Cemetery
Joseph Labounty

NOTE: In later years, many remains of these Civil War Veterans were removed from the smaller family cemeteries to Evergreen Cemetery. In the 1890s the old Catholic Cemetery, which still exists on West Street, had almost all remains removed to the newly completed Calvary Cemetery at the end of Meadow Street.

Although celebrated on May 26,2008, traditionally Memorial Day has been May 30!

Tidbits From Then and Now

EVERY TOWN HAS ITS HEROES

Staff Sgt. Flory Home After 50 Combat Missions

Staff Sgt. Alfred R. Flory, 20, who recently tallied his 50th combat mission over Hitler's disintegrating Europe, arrived September 5, 1944 to spend a furlough with his parents, Mr. & Mrs. Rocco Flory of 35 Columbian Avenue.

Waist gunner on a 15th AAF B-24 Liberator in Italy, Sgt. Flory was a member of a heavy bombardment group that plastered Axis strongholds 107 times, ranging from the south of France to the far eastern corners of Hungary and Romania. The high point of his combat career was over the Poesti oil installations in Romania, which he helped hit seven times.

"They had more guns there than any three places I've ever been to. The last trip we were caught in a bad barrage, and you should have seen the holes in our ship when we got back. We left black columns of smoke behind us when our bombs hit those refineries, so I guess it was even," he said in a statement released by the Army.

A student at Vermont Junior College, Sgt. Flory enlisted in the Air Force in March, 1943, receiving his training at Ft. Myers, Fla., gunnery school and at Lowry Field Colo., armament school. He won his wings in September, 1943 and went overseas in February of this year to his Italian base, where he received the Air medal with four oak leaf clusters.

Pfc. Stevens Is Wounded

Official Notice Reaches His Parents Only Minutes Ahead of Letter From Him

Pfc. Elwin N. Stevens, Jr, 19 of Porter Place, Rutland, who figured in a spectacular incident in France on July 23, when he aided three U. S. Army chaplains in removing wounded under fire in a marshy no-man's land, has been seriously wounded in action, according to a War Department telegram received yesterday morning by his mother.

The telegram followed by five days the receipt of a Purple Heart medal, wrapped in a C-ration box, by Mrs. Stevens from her son last Thursday. There was no explanation and the young serviceman's parents had been in anxious suspense since that time awaiting an explanation. Yesterday, within a few minutes after the War Department telegram was delivered at the Stevens home, the family received a letter from Pfc. Stevens explaining that he had received the Purple Heart award for shrapnel wounds in the abdomen and thigh, from which he was making a good recovery at an Army hospital.

In his letter he commended the International Red Cross and described the delights of finding the "honest-to-goodness" American treat, coffee and doughnuts, which they provided to the troops in combat.

Pfc. Stevens was one of the aid men who helped the three Army chaplains in removing wounded from a bloody combat sector in Normandy. The bravery of the chaplains and litter bearers drew the admiration of the Germans and spontaneous unofficial cessation of hostilities on both sides for three hours followed while the work was carried on. Germans came out and directed the chaplains and their medical aides in locating the wounded, an Associated Press dispatch stated. "Defying fire from both sides and Allied strafing planes overhead, the chaplains and medical aides went into the marsh, holding aloft Red Cross flags, succoring a man here, another there," the news story said.

Pfc. Stevens was employed in the sports department of the Varsity Shop before he entered the service a year ago. He has been attached to a combat medical unit with the infantry.

These are only two Rutland heroes of a war that was supposed to be "A War to End All Wars"!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, August 2, 1877

MEANS OF SELF-SUPPORT FOR WOMEN

All right-minded women recognize the superior blessedness of home life. But the constantly reiterated assertion that woman's sphere is home has a sound of cruel irony in view of the fact there are many thousands of women to whom a home in the common sense of the word is as impossible as a castle in Spain.

The stereotyped words about preparing for wifehood and motherhood, which were pertinent twenty five years ago, have lost much of their pertinence. During this time there have been great changes in industrial and social life. Rev. Dr. Potter, the president of Union College, gave some timely advice in his baccalaureate discourse to the young ladies of the Packer Institute in Brooklyn in view of these changes, and of the fact that to those women who must make their own way in life, only a hard struggle is possible. He said that "it is Pharaoh commanding the captive Israelites to make brick without straw, to bid the great army of solitary, dependent women back to the home, and when to this sort of exhortation is added the sneer of ridicule or contempt for strong-minded women and women's rights and the like, it is adding mockery to insult."

His conclusion was that girls, as well as boys, should be prepared for self-support through some industry compatible with modesty and self-respect. In the middle ages, the daughters as well as sons, in a family often inherited and carried on the family art or handicraft. Exquisite workmanship, which modern art cannot rival, became an hereditary trait. "Unless we claim that men are a superior caste whose vocation must not be profaned by the entrance upon them of women, there is really no option for us but to proclaim the freedom of labor, and to contend for that freedom until it shall become complete and universal. In this transitional period, there must be found labor for women as well as for men."

In this connection, the following statement, which we find in the *Albany Argus*, is of interest: "The employment of women in the telegraph departments has been a complete success in England. Over 1,100 are employed in London, and there has been but one dismissal in four years. Their hours of work are from 8 a.m. to 8 p. m., each being on duty eight consecutive hours out of the twelve. In the establishment there are a kitchen and dining rooms, and the girls have a thoroughly good dinner for twenty cents. The pay begins at \$2 per week, which is raised to \$3 when a girl is competent. Girls may enter from 14 to 18. The average pay received is \$4.50 a week, and the highest is \$7.50 a week. A clerk who has worked for thirty years at \$7.50 a week would have \$3.75 a week pension."

I found this article quite interesting, especially since it was written in 1877!

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, July 9, 1908

\$7,000 FIRE AT FAIR GROUNDS

Fire Thursday afternoon destroyed the old grandstand at the Rutland County fairgrounds and quickly sweeping through the Park Theater nearby, also left that structure a mass of seething ruins. The loss is roundly estimated at about \$7,000. Both structures were wiped out in about an hour and a half, between 5 and 6:30 o'clock. The losses are as follows: Grandstand, owned by Rutland County Agricultural Society; Park Theater, owned by Rutland Kennel Club; scenery and chairs, owned by George S. Haley; Hadley Moving Picture Company and a piano, owned by H. A. Hall. It is understood that there will be no loss to Felix Blei, lessee of the Park Theater.

The fire is believed to have been started by a cigar or cigarette stub, dropped through the grandstand by one of the spectators at the baseball game between the Rutland team and the ex-R.H.S. nine earlier in the afternoon.

The building known as the Park Theater was erected by the E. W. Bissell Manufacturing Co. in the summer of 1899, the amount necessary being subscribed by 14 citizens to furnish a place for the meetings of the Vermont Kennel Club and once a year for the Rutland County Agricultural Society. When the Vermont Kennel Club ceased to use the building, it was leased by the owners to the proprietors of theaters and other ways to reimburse them for the outlay. During the last three years the building was leased to George S. Haley and Felix Blei, who conducted a theater each summer. Previously it had been leased to P. V. Donahy, now of Glens Falls, NY who ran a theater there and expended considerable money fixing it up. Mr. Haley and others also made considerable repairs and alterations at different times.

Part of the grandstand was erected about 40 years ago and an addition was built on nearly 18 years ago, when the Horse Breeders' Association held exhibitions on the grounds.

July 16, 1908: New Grandstand In Sight

Considerable interest is being manifested in the quesaiton as to whether a new grandstand will be built soon to take the place of the one destroyed by fire at the fair grounds recently. The Rutland County Agricultural Society owns the property.

The insurance adjusters have been here and appraisers have been appointed. Their report will probably be filed in a few days and the outcome of this is being watched by the members of the society. Should the amount allowed the society be large enough to erect a good up-to-date grandstand, they will go ahead with the project themselves. If not, it is understood that a number of Rutland men are anxious to build the stand and take the receipts.

The stand will necessarily have to be erected this summer, as the coming County fair and horse show combined, promises to be one of the largest affairs of the kind ever held in the City of

Rutland. There are inquiries coming from the prominent horse breeders throughout the country, asking for dates and classes for the coming show. The number of Rutland exhibitors promises to be large this year, a number already having made arrangement to show.

July 30, 1908: \$4150 FOR THE GRANDSTAND

It is now an assured fact that the Rutland County Agricultural Society will erect a modern grandstand and the first part of the work will be done at once. The insurance appraisers, H. F. Noyes and Charles W. Spear, have completed their work at the grounds and have rendered their report. Secretary W. K. Farnsworth stated yesterday that the plans would be drawn at once and the contract let and work started so that the stand will be ready for use the first of September at the time of the fair.

August 13, 1908: THE GRANDSTAND ASSURED

Private Citizens Make it Possible For Agricultural Society to Build Structure as Originally Planned

When Rutland County wakes up there is something doing. When it became known that the Rutland Agricultural Society had but \$2500, [Note the discrepancy of the amount. They must have had some other expenses deducted from the \$4150 award], to build a \$5000 grandstand, there was a feeling of disappointment, but this was only for a day or two. A few citizens throughout the County got in touch with one another and came forward to advance the needed \$2500.

The members of the Agricultural Society have been told to go ahead with the work as originally intended. Contractors R. W. Kenyon and Michael Dunn have doubled up on the construction and have a large gang of men at work in order to get the grandstand finished in time for the fair. When completed the stand will be one of the best in New England. The lower part will be devoted to a dining room, offices, lavatories and checking accommodations, although the work in the lower part of the stand will probably not be finished in time for the fair.

[On June 17, 1939, fire again completely destroyed the grandstand. The new grandstand was completed by September 1, 1939, just in time for Fair Week. It was erected by contractor C. G. Noyes in just 40 days!]

Tidbits From Then and Now

From the Rutland County, Book of Biographies

Dr. Jesse Eugene Thomson came to Rutland in 1883. He immediately assumed a prominent position among the practitioners of this city in a remarkably short time, establishing a large practice. He attained distinction in the medical profession as well as in political circles. He held numerous positions of responsibility and trust, to which he was elected by the Republican party. He was a member of the advisory board of the Rutland Hospital. As a physician and surgeon, he stands without a superior in Rutland and Rutland County. He always endeavored to be a friend as well as a physician to his patient. His practice grew to such an extent that he was allowed to devote but little time to anything else.

Rutland Herald, November 13, 1922

DR. J. E. THOMSON DIES OF HEART TROUBLE**One of Rutland's Oldest Physicians and Prominent Mason Was 69**

Dr. Jesse E. Thomson, 69, one of the oldest practicing physicians of the city and one of the most prominent members of the Masonic fraternity in the state, died suddenly last evening about 11:49 o'clock at his home on Wales Street.

Although Dr. Thomson had not been in the best of health, his condition was not considered at all serious. He and Mrs. Thomson attended a meeting of the trustees of the Universalist Church last evening and later visited friends. He had just driven his automobile into the yard at his home and was about to get out of the machine when he was taken ill. Mrs. Thomson and one of the employees helped him to the house and Drs. A. H. Bellerose and F. H. Everett were called, but Dr. Thomson was dead when they arrived. Heart failure is given as the cause of his death.

Dr. Thomson was born in Jericho, Nov. 22, 1853, and he resided there during his early life. He received his early education at People's Academy in Morrisville and then entered New York University, graduating in 1878 with the degree of M.D. He returned to Vermont and practiced medicine for a time in Cabot and Jericho. He came to Rutland in 1883 and has since practiced in this city. He represented Rutland City in the legislature in 1896 and was a senator from Rutland

County in the legislature of 1898. He also held the office of health officer of the City for many years.

Dr. Thomson was one of the founders of the Universalist Society in Rutland and it was largely through his efforts that a church was erected here. He has been a trustee of the church since it was built. He was made a 33rd Degree Mason at a meeting of the Imperial Council in Boston in 1894. He held practically every office of the local Masonic lodges, was a past Grand Commander of the Knights Templar of Vermont, was a well known Shriner and has been Potentate of Cairo Temple of this city and Mount Sinai Temple of Montpelier.

The list of Rutland people who have professionally, socially and politically contributed to making this community what it is today is long. Dr. Thomson is most certainly on that list.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland County Independent, July 6, 1867

The Fourth At Rutland

The "Firemen's Muster" brought together one of the largest gatherings that we have ever seen in our town. The morning opened hot and dusty, but with slight indications of rain. The streets were filled with a living mass of human beings, intermixed with the various uniforms of the firemen and the bands. The countermarching of the different-hued firemen and their bands, as they were getting their appropriate places to form the line of procession, were decidedly kaleidoscopic.

Just as the procession commenced its line of march up Washington Street, a storm burst with a most remarkable suddenness. The rain fell in torrents and as the wind came in as a strong accompaniment, it found "all the out-of-door places," and the exposed procession watchers sought shelter as they could conveniently find. There were two or three exceedingly vivid flashes of lightning, with most startling peels of thunder. In one instance the lightning struck the building in the process of erection on the corner of Center Street and Merchants Row as well as the rod of the Congregational Church, tearing off some of the slate from the roof.

With this interruption the idea of the procession was given up. What would doubtless have been one of the best displays of this kind ever witnessed in any of the cities in New England was lost. The rain ceased almost as suddenly as it had come and a fine cool afternoon was given for the arduous duties of the firemen in their contests.

The matter of contending for prizes by the firemen involves "luck." Everything may be right with men and engine, there may be nothing neglected on the part of the foreman and every attention given to the placing of the machine, hose etc. and yet a "snip" in the wind, or some other unavoidable circumstance may change the whole result and throw the chances "wherever it listeth." Every company on the ground on this occasion showed good discipline, proved themselves worthy and in the words of Superintendent Merrill, "we wish we had prizes for all of them." The "Firemen's Muster" ended, as it opened, joyously and harmoniously.

It is a gratification to notice the improvement which is constantly going on in the musical world around us and this is nowhere more strongly illustrated than in the high degree of excellence which many of our country bands are attaining. Those in attendance from abroad on this occasion were bands from Keene, Gardner, Montpelier, Hinesburg, a Drum Corps from Brattleboro and the Rutland Band, under the direction of their leader A. B. Williams.

June 29, 1867

The village trustees call attention to the following extract from the General Statutes of Vermont: "If any person shall have in his possession any cracker, squib, serpent or rocket with intent to sell, or set fire to the same, or shall sell, or offer to sell, or give away the same, or set fire to or

throw any lighted cracker, squib, or serpent or rocket, he shall be punished by fine not exceeding ten dollars.”

On the same page an ad read:

Fourth of July Celebration in Rutland

Biggest Time On Record

We have just returned from New York
and Boston with the largest stock of

FIRE WORKS,

ever brought to town to help enliven
this great occasion and if you get dry
we will quench your thirst from our
fountain with

*Soda Water, drawn from the
North Pole*

and will promise all that will favor us
with a call, to do our part to make
their stay in our city pleasant. Remember at

FENN & TUTTLE

Herald Building, Rutland, VT

The **OLD RED STORE** also advertized “the best assortment of rife works.”

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, Thursday, February 14, 1867

Destructive Fire At West Rutland

At about one o'clock yesterday morning fire consumed the fine twenty-gang steam mill of Messrs. Sheldons & Slason at West Rutland, including the attached boiler house, the building used for "coping" or trimming marble, a work shop and store house with all their contents. The two men have been employed by the company to watch the buildings. One goes off watch at midnight after calling the other, who watches till morning. On Saturday night, the man who was on duty till midnight went off watch and called his fellow watchman. He told him that when he left the building he "smelled smoke," but said he guessed it was nothing serious, whereupon he left to go home. The man who went on watch at that time says he walked over the premises, but discovered nothing until about 1:30 a.m. when he saw a light shining on some slabs of marble, lying in the driveway between the coping shop and saw mill. Investigating the matter, he discovered that flames were issuing from the coping shop. Having no means at his disposal with which to stop the progress of the fire, the building was soon wrapped in a sheet of flame and reduced to ashes. That building contained a large number of the tools and involved a considerable loss for the company

But the work of destruction was not to end there. The flames entered an archway used to protect a driving belt running from the saw mill to the coping shop and spread to the saw mill. The saw mill was constructed of wood and inflammable material which afforded easy prey for the avaricious monster, and it too, in the short space of an hour, was reduced to a heap of smoldering ruins. West Rutland did not have fire fighting machinery and consequently nothing could be done to contain the flames after they had attained such a degree of progress that would defy the efforts of a few pails of water.

The saw mill was one of the largest in the United States and the total loss by the fire cannot be much less than \$25,000, upon which it was reported that there was an insurance of only \$15,000. Indeed the precise loss of Messrs. Sheldons & Slason cannot be accurately estimated. Much valuable time will be consumed before their firm will again have their works in shape to be able to send their products to market and realize any profit.

It is understood that the company intends to commence the re-erection of the buildings and they will probably, in the course of a few months, be back in full running operation.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 16, 1948

Excerpts from: Article by George Gallup, Director of American Institute of Public Opinion

HIGH PRICES SEEN LIKELY TO BE HOT CAMPAIGN ISSUE DURING THIS ELECTION YEAR

The Democratic party served adequate notice at its convention that the campaign issue to be debated most heatedly in the months ahead is the one that American voters cite as the nation's most pressing domestic problem-- the high cost of living.

Reasons why high prices have assumed top importance in voters' minds are to be found in statements by representative voters on the minimum family income required to live decently in their own communities.

In 1937, the typical American told Institute interviewers that a family with two children needed a minimum of \$30 a week to maintain a decent home. But, when he answers the same question today, 11 years later, the average person says that it now takes a minimum of \$50 a week for a family of four to make ends meet.

While family incomes have also increased substantially in this period, still at least approximately a third of the people say that their family incomes are below the minimum standards which they set. Politically, the important fact is that, regardless of how they fare today compared with 10 years ago, 32% of those whose incomes were below standard feel that they are having a hard time making ends meet. Because of their numerical strength, the present party leanings of these voters carry important implications for this presidential campaign.

While the average American voter lists high living costs as the leading domestic issue, he is pessimistic about any immediate relief from the burden of high prices. In contrast to the attitude prevailing five months ago, 48 percent of voters with opinions believe there will be further price boosts between now and 1949.

Remember hearing/reading about the Gallup Polls?

Here we are 60 years later with another presidential campaign. Today's issues are high pricing; the devaluation of our money and another war with which to contend. Does history repeat itself?

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Weekly Herald, February 14, 1867

BURNING OF THE RUTLAND GAS WORKS

About half-past one o'clock Sunday morning, the shrieking of the machine shop and various locomotive whistles proclaimed to our citizens that the dread monster "fire" was raging in our village and notwithstanding the unseasonable hour, our streets soon presented a lively scene. Citizens and firemen, with their engine[pumpers] and hook and ladder trucks [wagons] rushed pell-mell to the scene of the conflagration, which proved to be the gas works or manufactory of the Rutland Gas Light Company.

As usual when water is most wanted, there was none in the reservoirs at the time of the breaking out of the fire. Though the heavens furnished a copious supply it was not enough. Before water could be let on from the main aqueduct and the engines [pumpers] got to work effectively, the flames had made such progress that it was useless to attempt to check them. As there was no danger of their spreading any farther than the manufactory, the fire department rendered little or no service. Indeed had there been plenty of water, one of the engines [pumpers] was in such a condition from having her valves choked with gravel and mud that she could be of little use in quelling a fire. This is a bad state of affairs, and we hope the lesson taught at the fire yesterday morning will prevent its repetition.

The real cause of the fire is unknown. It is believed to have originated in a wooden ventilator in the roof, used for carrying off the smoke and foul air arising from the manufacture of the gas. The men in charge of the works left the building about one-half an hour before the fire broke out. They aver that the usual precautions against fire were taken before their departure, such as wetting down the floors and other exposed parts, etc. No blame can therefore be attached to them. As we have said, the origin of the fire remains a mystery, though in view of the numerous sparks carried through the ventilator when the "charges" are renewed, it is believed that the disaster was caused by one or more of them lodging in the sides thereof and igniting it. As the fire, when first discovered, had made no progress in the main building, the supposition is believed to be well founded.

It is but a little over thirteen months since the building burned before, and though both times the property destroyed was insured, the company, in consequence of loss of time and delays generally, must be a loser to a considerable amount.

Now that the building is destroyed and our citizens have once more to resort to the use of lamps and candles, there is room for much discussion on the gas question, and as an interested party, we have a few words to say on the subject.

To begin with, the poor quality of gas furnished by the Rutland Gas Light Company has long been a well-founded cause for complaint. Again it is alleged that the Company has charged most exorbitant prices for the gas which it did furnish, prices which would seem large for a good

quality, and which are much larger than those demanded in other places lighted by gas. The light which has been furnished our citizens has been manufactured from refuse petroleum and other oils and chemicals, and though much cheaper, is by no means as good an article as that manufactured from coal. In places lighted by coal gas, that article is usually furnished at from \$3.00 to \$5.00 per thousand feet, while in Rutland, for the inferior article which we have been receiving from the Gas Light Company, we have had to pay \$6.00. These facts would seem to show that the company has been doing a very profitable business, and at the same time aggravating our business men and citizens generally with very poor light,--sometimes none at all. The question arises whether, if an incorporated company can make large dividends on a capital of \$20,000 or \$25,000, the corporation [Town or Village] can not, by investing a like amount in a similar manner, *save* the profits which this company pockets, and afford the community of Rutland light at lower prices than has been paid, and furnish a better quality of light at that? We believe it can. We hope the subject will be agitated by our citizens, and if necessary call a corporation [Town or Village] meeting to take action in the matter. But whether the light be furnished by a private company, or manufactured by the corporation [Town or Village] for the benefit of the people, we can only hope that it will hereafter be of good quality and at reasonable prices.

By October of 1867 the Peoples Gas & Light Company was organized. The site of the former gas company was rebuilt with brick buildings. Coal was used to produce the gas as well as by-products of tar and coke[baked coal], which were sold at a good profit. The establishment was not excelled for completeness and excellence in Vermont.

Here we are in 2008 contending that the price of gas is going beyond reasonable pricing. Although not the same kind of gas and not for the same purpose, the private corporations seem to be "winning" again!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, August 8, 1928

ITEMS OF NEWS GLEANED FROM LOCAL AUTOMOBILE AGENCIES

Charles M. Duffy, manager of the Cadillac-LaSalle Company of Rutland, announced last night that arrangements have been practically completed for the opening of the company's new garage on Willow Street. The new garage is completed and is one of the most modern in the state. The work of decorating the interior for the reception of the visitors will be begun next week. Several new models will be on display and experienced mechanics will be present to explain and demonstrate the new machines.

Hudson-Essex Deliveries

The Rutland Hudson-Essex Company recently delivered the following new machines: Hudson landeau sedan, A.A. Muray, Rutland; Essex sedan, C. N. Ransom, Rutland; Essex coupe, S.A. Cootey, Wallingford; Essex sedan, Erhard Oscarson, Proctor; Essex sedan, Eric Oscarson, Proctor. Two carloads of Essex coaches and sedans will arrive today in Rutland for the company.

The local company is showing cars in new summer and autumn colors, but the Hudson Motor Car Company has announced to its dealers that otherwise the cars will continue unchanged. The management points out that the popularity of these modes has given the company the greatest volume of business it ever has had. Several two-tone effects are announced, as well as Hudson fenders lacquered in colors.

Auto Men Take Air Trip

Charles M. Duffy of the Cadillac-LaSalle Company, with Garfield H. Miller, district Cadillac distributor, of White River Junction, Leon H. Miller and Arthur Benson, also of the Miller Auto Company, White River Junction, who recently attended the Cadillac Motor Car convention held at Detroit, Mich., returned from that city as far as Cleveland, O., by airplane with 10 other passengers including New York, Vermont and New Hampshire automobile dealers.

More Power in Buick

According to W. H. Williams, manager of the Rutland Buick Company, the silver anniversary of Buick makes a strong bid for appreciation on the basis of improved performance for Buick's six-cylinder valve-in-head engine. The power increase, Buick engineers point out, has been obtained largely through refinements in the engine. There has been an 11 percent increase in the piston displacement of the large engine and a 12 percent displacement increase in the smaller.

New Whippet Owners

The Rutland Machine and Automobile Company, of which Charles A. Matthews is proprietor, report the following Whippet car deliveries since August 1: Whippet 6 sedans, L. G. LaValley, Thomas Horan, Rutland; W. R. Brady, Wallingford; Whippet 4 sedan, J. Carrara, Wallingford; Whippet commercial roadster, L. A. Knight, Rutland; Whippet 4 cabriolet coupe, E. L. Payne, Rutland; Whippet 4 coach, Henry Gallipo, Pittsford; Whippet sport roadster, H. E. Long, Florence.

Pontiac Improvements

More power, more speed, greater acceleration, greater fuel economy and excellent appearance are claimed for the new Pontiac six machines now being released by Oakland-Pontiac dealers, according to Farwell & Hayes, local distributors. New marvel carburetor, improved manifolding, redesigned ignition, distributor, higher gear ratio and larger tires and smaller wheels are among the new features claimed.

Flanders Joins Dunn Co.

The Dunn Auto Sales Company recently delivered a 75 Royal sedan to Miss Sarah Sawyer of Fair Haven and Plymouth four-door sedans to T. M. Atkins of Bristol and Clarence H. Murdick and H. R. Ryan of Rutland. Clayton E. Flanders of North Main Street, formerly treasurer and manager of the Flanders Motor Car Company, has recently become connected with the Dunn Auto Sales Company.

Show New "Study"

A new President straight eight Victoria Studebaker is now on display at the showrooms of the Davenport Motor Sales Corporation, formerly the Flanders Motor Company. The new straight eight engine offers 109 horsepower, producing at least 80 miles per hour. Last April, the President gave proof of its speed and endurance by breaking all official stock closed car records for distance up to 2000 miles. Such luxury features as cigar lighter, smoking sets, silk assist cords, vanity cases and antique finished door panels are found in the larger models. This company delivered seven new models and 12 used cars during the past week.

Demand for Nashs Good

Gosselin Sales and Service, Nash dealers, are regularly receiving and delivering new models of the "400" advance six series. In addition to the new twin-ignition motor, the new "400" claims many new advances in body design. The bodies are claimed to be roomier and more comfortable and are equipped with newly designed seat springs which are much deeper and more relaxing to the posture of the body, it is said. All of the new models are equipped with a coincidental lock installed on the instrument board, which cuts off ignition and automatically locks the transmission in neutral simultaneously.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, August 11, 1928

“Really good” tidbits:

LOVE OF AUTO HELPS LOST DOG FIND OWNER

“Deena” a police dog, with a mania for automobile riding, has been returned to her owner, Mrs. Raymond Barber of Pittsford, after a two day stop-over in a car owned by John W. Burton of Aiken Place, this city.

Deena wandered about the streets of Rutland last Saturday night and discovered an empty machine parked at the curb. It was of the same make as that which her owner, Mrs. Barber, drives.

The dog climbed in, made herself comfortable, evidently waiting for Mrs. Barber and when Mr. & Mrs. Burton returned to the car, she refused to move. Mr. Burton took the animal home, where for two days it still refused to leave the machine and forced her temporary owners to feed her in it:

Finally through the medium of a “lost” ad in the *Herald*, the dog and owner were reunited.

Today, we see that dogs are welcome to Friday Night Live in Rutland, but, keep your eye on them!

ISSUE A NEW FOLDER TO ADVERTISE RUTLAND

A new publicity folder titled “Rutland, The Gateway of the Green Mountains” left the press yesterday to be distributed by the Rutland Chamber of Commerce.

The outside covers depict, in color, a lake beach and mountain scene. On the inside is a colored topographical map of the mountains and towns surrounding Rutland and all of the main roads leading into the city.

In other parts of the booklet are described by word and picture the various beauty spots, sports possibilities and other interesting features of Rutland and vicinity. Ten thousand copies will be distributed.

Today, July 2008, officials and citizens are trying to come up with new word associations (“Branding Rutland”) that sum up the attractions of the Rutland area. When folks start listing Rutland’s attractions, they suddenly find that after all Rutland is a good place to live. Helping others, as well as ourselves, to realize this, is a breath of fresh air.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland has been blessed with numerous doctors of great talent. Among these is Dr. Charles L. Allen, son of a Middlebury doctor. Charles graduated from Middlebury College in 1842 and the Castleton Medical College in 1846. He practiced with his father in Middlebury and took over the practice upon his father's death in 1848.

On June 14, 1854 Dr. Allen married Harriet Wood, with whom he had two daughters, Frances and Harriet. By 1860, he was a widower.

Dr. Allen accepted an appointment as a professor at the Castleton Medical College in 1855. He was professionally active in state and national medical societies. He left teaching at Castleton and after a year away, returned again to Castleton in 1860 as professor of surgery. In the fall of 1861 he was appointed to a medical board examining surgeons and assistant surgeons for the Vermont Civil War volunteers.

On June 25, 1862, Dr. Allen was appointed brigade surgeon of U. S. Volunteers. With the rank of Major he served on the Medical Board that selected officers for military service. Most of his service was caring for sick and wounded officers in the Washington D. C. area.

In February 1864, Dr. Allen became Medical Purveyor, Department of the South, until August 5, 1864 when he resigned his commission to return to Vermont, frustrated by the lack of help in dealing with the immense amount of paper work his job required.

On May 31, 1865 he married his second wife, Gertrude Lyon of Glade Mills, Pennsylvania. They had three children: Edwin Lyon, Charles William and Harris Campbell. In 1889 Gertrude died. Dr. Allen died suddenly on July 2, 1890.

Excerpt from his obituary:

Dr. Allen was secretary of the State Board of Health, and had been connected with the board since its organization; he did a vast amount of work as secretary, for which he received no compensation. He edited the "Sanitary Visitor," and did much valuable work in the interest of the health of the state.

He was the first president of the Rutland Medical Club, an honored member of the Vermont State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Medicine, also the International Medical Association. He always attended the meetings of each if it was possible to do so. He was an honorary alumnus of Rush Medical College of Chicago.

Dr. Allen was a gentleman in every sense of the word, quiet and unassuming in his manner and a general favorite with all his acquaintances. He was highly esteemed by his professional brethren, who often sought his advice and counsel in difficult and obscure cases. His consulting practice was large throughout the state and often extended outside. He was possessed of rare common sense, logical and accurate in his conclusions and regarded as an excellent diagnostician.

One well-known merchant, in speaking of Dr. Allen said, "I have known him for 20 years and I never knew of his saying an unkind word of anyone; he was the most unselfish man I ever knew and a thorough Christian."

His death will be sincerely mourned by many dear friends, not only in town, but throughout the state, who extend their sympathies to the afflicted family.

It was also noted in the obituary that Dr. Allen was the sixth physician to die in Rutland during a three year period.

The Rutland Historical Society is fortunate to have received two of Dr. Allen's record books listing patients names, ailments and fees paid for medical care, dated 1867 and 1870.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, December 7, 1871

AMUSEMENT AT THE JAIL

George Harwood, prisoner at the jail wagers five dollars that he can walk twenty four hours without rest, only to take his meals, (15 minutes allowed to each meal). C. E. Stone takes the bet. The money is put up, and Harwood commenced walking at 6 o'clock last evening.
[December 6]

Rutland Weekly Herald, December 14, 1871

At a late hour on Friday morning we received special and exclusive intelligence of the result of the great foot race, against time, if it may be so called, over the track owned and controlled by the County [County Jail], and announced the same in a brief paragraph.

The race has excited great interest among the "sporting" fraternity, the terms and conditions, as well as the stakes pending, having been announced by the entire morning press of Vermont and the result has been looked for with the most intense anxiety. In order to relieve this reasonable anxiety and to satisfy the laudable curiosity of the rest of mankind, we have succeeded in obtaining the following brief particulars of the attendants of the parties, the preliminaries to and result of this great feat, which, in its successful accomplishment, leaves Weston [famous walkist] and other walkists nowhere.

George Harwood, the successful walkist, was formerly connected with the United States Army, and states that when connected therewith, he often walked twenty-four hours without rest. He is now, and has for some time been, connected with the Vermont State *un*-volunteer service [in prison], and was on duty at the Rutland barracks [County Jail]. Previous to being assigned for duty at this place, it is said that he made the fastest time on record, from Castleton to Massachusetts.

The backer of *Time* against muscle was formerly the leading *dealer* in his branch of business in the County, but more recently was connected with the wholesale Chicago trade. He was accompanied by a gentleman recently connected with the Chicago press, who, we regret to learn, is unavoidably detained, and will at present be unable to furnish his regular report to the press of that city.

The stake-holder and referee had established for himself quite a reputation for the rather careless manner in which he, it is alleged, "sticks knives in his Brandon neighbors."

The preliminaries being satisfactorily arranged, time was called at precisely six o'clock Wednesday evening. Harwood appeared on an elevated platform, some twenty-four feet in length and two feet wide, and commenced his rounds. He was in excellent spirits and was heartily cheered by the spectators. It may be proper here to remark that the company assembled was not

very large, but was, in the true sense of the word, *selected* [prisoners]. The absence of a larger number is accounted for from the rather unusual terms required for admission to the inner courts.

From this time till morning he continued in unceasing walk, relieved only by the constantly recurring necessity of turning around. He was watched through the night by relays of watchers, specially detailed for that purpose, who performed their duty with satisfaction to themselves.

At seven o'clock, Thursday morning, a rest of fifteen minutes was had for refreshments. He ate heartily and with relish.

At fifteen minutes past seven he returned to duty, with new life and vigor and, with the exception of fifteen minutes rest at noon, continues his course on the track until six p.m., when whistles from the machine shop and marble shop, and the Court house bell announcing him the victor--the race ended and Chicago suffering another loss. He had walked fifty-five miles in twenty-three hours and thirty minutes, was in good condition and had excellent spirits and blistered feet.

At the close of the race, the hospitalities of the State were extended to the victor, the referee, the gentleman from Chicago, and the *privileged* spectators as they sat down to a magnificent banquet, prepared at the expense of the State, at the "Sanderson House," where the utmost good feeling prevailed, and the most substantial justice done to the excellent bill of fare. We are pleased to record that the banquet was conducted on strictly temperance principles--wines and other liquors being rigorously excluded.

The "Sanderson House," [aka the Rutland County Jail] was located on South Main Street where Allan Sanderson was the Deputy Sheriff and Jailer.

Tidbits From Then and Now

On June 1, 1867 an unusual sporting event occurred in Bennington with promoters matching J. Adams, billed as the “Champion Walker of the World,” against a nag known as “the Sykes horse.” Could Adams walk a quarter of a mile faster than a horse could trot half a mile? The match was set for the best two of three heats and the winner would get a \$30.00 purse.

A large crowd was on hand and quite a few bets were placed on the outcome. The horse won the first heat, but Adams wasn’t daunted. He went on to win the next two heats, coming in almost as fresh as when he started out. It seemed amazing that a man could perform such a feat, but the cheering crowd was thrilled as Adams won the prize.

In 1877, another more traditional set of races took place when Rutland and Burlington were the sites of two related races. On July 28, at the Rutland Fairgrounds, there was a race of 100 yards between John Thompson of Burlington, a 20-year old “professional runner” and J. Rush, also a professional runner, who had come from “Dacota” (The area later known as North & South Dakota), who was about 50 years old. The race started and stayed even for a short distance when Rush gained the lead and held it, finishing just a few inches ahead of Thompson to win the purse of \$200.

On August 3rd, Rush went on to a 100 yard race on Pearl Street in Burlington. His rival was R. S. Alden of Montreal, Canada. This time the prize was \$500. The cheering crowd favored Alden because he was tall and slim as opposed to Rush, who was short with a medium build. After several false starts, the two were neck and neck for a time until Alden took the lead and reached the finish line three feet ahead of Rush.

How far we have come! Today schools and colleges have track teams competing to the thrill of parents and friends. Then, of course, for years runners from all over the world, have been thrilling thousands, who are watching the Olympics on TV, by winning gold, silver and bronze medals.

OOPS! Oh yes, don’t forget the Racing Pigs at the Vermont State Fair in Rutland, this Fall.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, Monday September 3, 1928

Take Measures to Handle Fair Traffic

Two New Signal Lights Erected at Important Street Intersections

In order to eliminate danger of accidents at Wales and Washington and Wales and Center Streets during the heavy traffic of fair week, traffic signal lights have been placed at those intersections, by order of Commissioner of Public Safety, Bradley J. Costello and an alderman's committee appointed to look into the need for traffic control at a number of street intersections in the city.

The action followed a conference of the committee Saturday evening, where it was decided that the extremely dangerous conditions which prevail at both intersections should be remedied at once by the installation of flashing signals.

Work of wiring for the new devices was started at once under the direction of Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski and the order for the lights was rushed through in order that they might be up in time for the opening of the fair.

The signals are of the overhead type, with three flashers, "Stop," "Caution" and "Go." The heavy traffic of yesterday incident to preparation for the fair was handled efficiently by the lights, city officials said last night.

Although one of the main reasons for erecting the lights now was the fair traffic, the expected heavy influx of visitors to the city during the autumn months is also entered into the question. H. Leonard will have special traffic officers stationed at all important intersections.

The Rutland fair is famous for its high class pyrotechnics, but Will Davis says that this year's daily display will outclass any fireworks ever seen in the city.

Microphones attached to power amplifiers and thence to a group of loud speakers over the judge's stand have been installed and there evidently will be no trouble in the stands this year in hearing all that is said by the announcers.

The new turnstiles which have been installed at the South Main Street and Park Street gates remind the observer that the "gate-crasher" is going to have a hot time trying to get into the fair gratis this year.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 11, 1948

RUTLAND'S FIRST MOTORCYCLE RACES

Speeding around the half-mile fairgrounds dirt track at a near mile-a-minute clip, Ken Dinan, George Day and Walt Balchunas won the featured five-mile finals in the novice, amateur and expert classes yesterday as motorcycle racing appeared for the first time on a Rutland Fair program.

Dinan, from Monson, MA, won the novice final. Day, the Canadian champ from Verdun, Canada, won a thrilling two-cycle finish in the amateur finale and Balchunas, from Providence, RI, placed first in the expert class in the 10-lap final of that division.

Something of an international race developed in the amateur final. Day's foreign-made Triumph turned in the best times of the day, but the Canadian champ had to fight off a determined bid by Tom McDermott, an 18-year-old Glens Falls, NY schoolboy, before he could grab the checkered flag in the thrill-packed amateur finale. That race provided the highlight of the afternoon as the lead changed hands several times and then the two racing cyclists seemed to be rubbing elbows while sweeping around the tricky turns of the half-mile track.

There were a total of 34 entries in the three different classes and the 21-strong novice list made it necessary to add four qualifying heats to the originally scheduled seven-event program. Dinan rode his American-made Indian cycle to victory in the third of those four extra qualifying heats and then went on to cop the three-mile novice heat and the 5-mile finale.

The expert field was well-supplied with top notch performers such as "Babe" Tancrede, former 100 and 200-mile national champion, "Frenchy" Castonguay, who set a national 25-mile record at Springfield, IL in 1941 that still stands. Balchunas, who placed seventh this year in the 100-mile event at Langhorn, PA, and Bob Baer, in 1940 holder of the world's 10-mile amateur record.

It was Balchunas, however, who flashed across the finish line in the 5-mile expert event to win that division's top honors. Steve Chann, of New London, CT rode in in second place and Leon Newhall, of Lynn, MA, placed third. Tancrede, who might have been tagged the favorite at the start of the race, arrived just in time for the 3-mile heat and a long drive from Springfield, MA, might have caused his "also-ran" showing.

Perhaps the closest race of the day was the very first one on the program as Ed Gerry, from Haverhill, MA, edged Rick Fisher, of Glens Falls, NY by inches at the finish line, to qualify first for the first novice heat.

Gerry was the victim later of one of two spills that were the only racing mishaps of the afternoon. Both accidents occurred on the first turn of the fairgrounds track, as the cyclists apparently

misjudged the “bank” of the run and lost control of their machines. Gerry’s spill occurred during the novice final and the second accident, involving Otis Brayton, of Plymouth, NH eliminated that rider from the first novice heat. Neither cyclist was injured.

Little Johnny Corner, just five feet tall, won the second qualifying novice heat and placed third in both the 3-mile and 5-mile events.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, Friday September 18, 1936

WPA TO CONTINUE ART CLASSES HERE

Pierre Zwick Announces Opening of Instruction Monday Afternoon

The WPA art school classes, which attracted many persons here last year, will be continued this season, according to Pierre Zwick, director of the federal art project for Vermont, who announced yesterday that the classes will begin next Monday at Longfellow School.

The classes are to be conducted along lines similar to those followed last year and will start at 4 p.m. and continue until 9 p.m. Mrs. Clara Reynolds of this city will serve as director. There will be no admission fees, she stated.

Registration this fall is scheduled for September 21 between 4 and 9 o'clock at Longfellow school.

Instructors will be on hand to hold classes in landscape-gardening, design, jewelry making, oils, pen and ink sketching, applied design, leather tooling, woodcrafting, block printing, cartooning and clay modeling.

Paul Kelly of West Rutland will conduct the cartooning classes and Dr. Dean Brink of New York is to be in charge of the clay modeling groups. It is planned to start classes earlier this year in order to give sufficient time to make articles useable as Christmas gifts.

The purpose of the WPA classes, Zwick explained, is to offer expert guidance in the various arts and crafts to many persons who wish to turn free hours into valuable creative activities.

Interested groups from clubs and organizations in Rutland have been invited to use these facilities in connection with their programs. The classes, Zwick pointed out, are open not only to residents of Rutland, but also to persons from surrounding towns who do not have WPA classes of their own.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 24, 1928

BUSINESS AFFECTED BY MONEY SITUATION

Failures Show Big Increase, Building Held Up for Better Financing

New York, Sept. 23 (AP) Most lines of business made substantial progress during the past week, although the Southeast suffered a severe setback from the tropical storm.

High money rates continued, but Gov. Roy Young of the Federal Reserve Board said the system expected that member banks would take care of the autumn requirements at reasonable rates. A considerable increase in the number of business-failures was reported, however, and building permits fell off in August, indicating that some new projects are being held up pending better financing conditions.

Automobile Industry Booming

The high rate of production continued in the iron and steel industry. The composite price for pig iron advanced for the third time in four weeks. The fixing of steel prices for the last quarter, however, met with little progress. The rate of steel production during September promised to equal if not surpass that of August, with the automobile industry again placing heavy orders after a temporary lull, the railroad again in the market for steel rails, and the high rate of construction now in progress making heavy demands for structural steel.

The automobile industry, which had a record production in August, continued its brisk activity and employment figures at Detroit went to a new high record for the seventh consecutive week. Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., President of General Motors Corporation, said that at no time had he regarded the future of the concern with greater confidence. The heavy sales of all large automobile manufacturers in recent months, he explained, reflected a state of prosperity for industry in general, especially since practically all sections of the country are contributing to the general result.

The non-ferrous metal industry showed distinct improvement, copper, under heavy demand, both domestic and foreign, selling as high as 15 1/4 cents for export, the highest since 1923. Lead and tin were also strong. The lumber industry also improved, new orders for the latest week reaching a new high record for the year.

Crop Outlook Good

The crop outlook remained favorable. While there was some recession in the prices of meat animals from their recent peaks, the prices remained high enough largely to offset the lower cereal prices. The bumper corn crop made steady advance toward maturity, with some heat damage reported from Nebraska and wind damage from some sections. While the cotton crop suffered severe damage in the Southeast, the crop, as a whole, was not seriously injured. In Florida about 15 percent of the grapefruit and 6 percent of the orange crop was ruined by the storm.

While profit margins remained extremely low in most of the textile industry, a more cheerful outlook prevailed as fall buying increased with the cooler weather and the cotton textile institute predicted a better demand for cotton fabrics next year. Boston wool merchants said business was better during the week than for some time, and raw silk was firmer, under fair demand.

The jewelry industry remained quiet and only slight expansion was reported in the rather sluggish furniture industry.

Commodity prices displayed a slight firming tendency. Car loadings, as reported for the week ending September 8, improved over the like week of last year.

This article appeared almost exactly 80 years ago. Now the questions are: Should we get prepared? And, does history really repeat itself?

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The following pages are taken from a 1908 "*Rutland Guide and Business Directory*". They offer an interesting view of how people got around Rutland 100 years ago.

FRANK O. DUNTON WHOLESALE AND RETAIL COAL AND WOOD FLOUR, FEED, GRAIN, HAY 31 Strong's Avenue Rutland, Vermont. THE BARDWELL LALOR BROS., Props. Rutland, Vermont. Leading Hotel in the City Flemish Cafe Imported Pilsener on draught Automobile Garage and Livery on Premises.	The White Cross Pharmacy Pratt & Lewis, Proprietors 11 Merchants Row, Rutland, Vt. <i>Rutland Guide and Business Directory</i> FRANK B. HOWARD LEADING JEWELER AND OPTICIAN 25 MERCHANTS ROW COMPLIMENTS OF RUTLAND RY. LIGHT & POWER CO. Rutland, Vermont.
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This little book consists of 48 pages with ads from merchants and craftsman who did business in Rutland one hundred years ago.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, October 1929: Tidbits from the stock market

October 4: STOCKS TUMBLE \$25 TO \$70 PER SHARE DURING PANIC IN EXCHANGE

A sudden wave of liquidation, striking with terrific force in the last hour of trading, today brought about the most drastic decline in recent stock market history. Scores of active issues broke \$5 to \$25 a share and one inactive stock tumbled \$70 a share, as panic-stricken speculators, alarmed at the rapidly mounting total of brokers' loans, threw their holdings overboard for whatever they would bring.

October 5: STOCKS AGAIN DROP AS MARKET UNLOADS IN LARGE VOLUME

The fall housecleaning on the stock market assumed drastic proportions today. Although prices dropped less precipitously than yesterday, selling swelled to huge volume as weakened marginal holdings were dumped overboard on all sides. The ticker was swamped, running for an hour and a quarter after the closing gong.

October 9: MARKET UNEASY AS STOCK RALLY SEEMS TO BE LOSING VIM

The amazingly vigorous rally from the low levels of last Friday showed signs of petering out in today's session of the stock market. Although operations for the advance were pressed forward in the chemicals and some of the food shares and specialties with marked success, such important groups as the oils, rails and motors were inclined to sag, and gains and losses about canceled out at the close. Trading turned comparatively dull.

October 11: SURPRISINGLY GOOD STEEL REPORT BRINGS BROAD STOCK RISE

An unexpectedly favorable unfilled tonage report by U. S. Steel precipitated a broad advance in today's session of the stock market. A repetition of yesterday's 5 per cent call money rate, and an over optimistic forecast regarding the weekly Federal Reserve brokerage loan figures, aided the advance. The volume of trading picked up considerably from the sluggish turnover yesterday.

October 16: STOCKS CONTINUE TO DRIFT LOWER WITH DISCOURAGING NEWS

The stock market continued to drift toward lower levels today. Small traders were apathetic and professional operators hesitant. The day's industrial and financial news was not encouraging. A few specialties in which important developments are believed to be pending were rapidly bid up, and the rails attracted fair support, but the utilities were again sharply depressed by nervous liquidation.

October 17: TWO BILLION LOST IN MARKET DEBACLE

The stock market received its second crushing blow within a fortnight today when a deluge of selling orders poured into the market, and washed away more than two billion dollars in quoted values.

October 22: SUPPORT BY BANKS STOPS SENSATIONAL SLUMP IN MARKET

Powerful banking support was thrown into the stock market today to check what threatened to become one of the most nerve-wracking declines in recent financial history. In a wild rush of selling, prices of leading shares tumbled about 5 to 15 points during the morning and early afternoon, but, by mid afternoon the decline was checked and a moderate rally set in which canceled or reduced the losses in many of the more important shares.

October 23: STOCK MARKET REGAINS SOME OF ITS LOSSES IN HEALTHY ADVANCE

Wall street saw streaks of sunlight for a change today, as the headlong decline in stock prices was reversed and scores of leading shares rallied \$3 to nearly \$30, more than canceling the losses suffered during yesterday's avalanche of selling.

October 24: STOCK MARKET HIT BY TERRIFIC SLUMP

Wall street was thrown into the nearest approximation of a stock market panic experienced in years during the last hour of trading on the New York stock exchange today. A new and wholly unexpected avalanche of selling swept over the market, carrying scores of stocks down and wiping out more than \$3,000,000,000 in paper values in the brief interval of about an hour.

October 25: ANOTHER TERRIFYING STAMPEDE ON MARKET CRUMPLES UP BILLIONS IN VALUES

Hysterical Roar From Frenzied Traders on Exchange Deafening; Stock Tickers Are Hours Behind; High Grade Securities Are Dumped Onto Market Along With Speculative Issues; Spectators Terrified.

Not since the war panic which resulted in closing the exchange for 17 weeks in 1914 has Wall Street seen such a dark and trying day and never in financial history have security markets been thrown into such a tumult.

Traders on the floor of the stock exchange shrieked and howled their offers for desperate minutes before they found takers. Such a roar arose from the stock exchange floor that it could be heard for blocks up and down Broad and Wall Streets. Speculators and sightseers poured into Wall Street in such volume that extra traffic police were required to handle them and the stock exchange gallery, to which spectators are admitted only upon recommendation of a partner in a member brokerage firm, was closed to the public.

October 28: BUSINESS RECOVERS QUICKLY AS MARKET REGAINS FOOTHOLD

Business and industry moved forward with an assurance in extraordinary contrast to the semi-panic conditions prevailing in the security markets. The same hesitancy in some line that has prevailed during recent weeks was evident, but assurances of the fundamental stability of conditions were put forth by a long list of leading bankers and business executives.

October 29: SUPPORT REMOVED, WORST DAY'S DIVE IN HISTORY HITS STOCKS

Powerful financial interests stepped aside today and let the stock market drop like a plummet, as a huge mass of wreckage from last week's crash was dumped overboard, drawing after it much panicky selling and instigating another "bear" rampage. Although operations were markedly more orderly than they were during Thursday's approach to a sinking spell, the most acute ever

experienced in modern financial history, the second largest turnover on record, and leading stock averages and indices indicated the sharpest drop ever experienced in a single day, more than wiping out the rally from Thursday's low levels and carrying the general level of prices to a new low for the year.

October 30: OPERATORS FORCED TO LIQUIDATE DUMP HUGE HOLDINGS ON MARKET

Wall Street today attributed the dumping of huge blocks of stocks at the opening of today's market to forced liquidation by large operators, who were no longer able to protect their accounts after having amassed paper profits running into hundreds of millions of dollars. Few of these operators, regarded as the leaders of the recent "bull" market, escaped totally unscathed. Sizable fortunes have been amassed by a few traders on the "short" side, but these are only a drop in the bucket compared to the losses sustained by "bulls."

October 31: STOCK PRICES GO UP IN IMPRESSIVE RALLY WHEN BANKS STEP IN

A gigantic concentration of the country's most powerful financial forces, headed by the J.P. Morgan and Rockefeller interests, threw sufficient buying support into the securities markets today to bring about one of the most impressive rallies on record. This action effectively checked the waves of hysterical selling which had washed away many millions of dollars in quoted values, threatening disaster to many who had survived the terrific onslaught of liquidation during the past week.

Here we are in October of 2008. Let's hope we can overcome the present stock market situation and history won't repeat itself.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Two little tidbits that I thought you would enjoy as much as I have:

Rutland Daily Herald, September 24, 1928

SEVEN INCH STRIP OF LAND SELLS FOR \$100

Signs of the increasing value of real estate in the city, particularly in the vicinity of State Street, were observed Saturday, when a deed was filed at the city clerk's office, recording the sale of a 7" strip of land on State Street, the length of a city lot, for the sum of \$100.

Mrs. Guiseppe Icolari of State Street was the purchaser of the nearly \$200-a-foot piece of property, buying the land from Joseph Cereghino of Lafayette Street. The property is situated between Pine and Summer Streets.

The figure compares with 42 cents an acre, which was paid for some of the land in what is now the business section, many years ago.

Rutland Daily Herald, October 12, 1929

LOCAL SLEUTH LED ONE MERRY CHASE, BUT HE LANDS HIS MAN

Colorful tales have been written of the "manhunts" of Scotland Yard's operators and the Canadian Mounted Police, but a story told here yesterday by local authorities of a recent chase made by Deputy Sheriff Almo J. Franzoni come close to rivaling some of the Sherlock Holmes narratives.

Last Monday Deputy Franzoni was handed papers to repossess an automobile bought by a local man three months ago. He hunted this city for the man and learned that he had a relative in Schenectady. In that city he was told that the Rutland man had been there several days before and had left for Albany. On Tuesday the sheriff went to Albany and, having in mind the fact that the man he was seeking might look for construction work he went to the union offices there and asked for the names of the contractors in and around Albany.

The union secretary gave him 16 names. He telephoned each company and found two that employed men with the same name as the person he was seeking. At 10 o'clock Tuesday night he aroused the bookkeepers of both companies and secured the addresses of the two men. One led him to Schenectady and he found that the home number that the man had given the construction company was incorrect. It was then 3 o'clock in the morning, so he decided to wait in his car until the men came to work.

"His man" was among the first to report and Deputy Franzoni recognized him. The car was in Bridgeport, Conn., so the deputy and the owner went from Albany to Bridgeport and then came back to Rutland. On the way back the steering apparatus broke and the car went off the road and into a meadow. The two men reached Rutland early Wednesday morning.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Tidbits appearing in the Rutland Daily Herald, December 11, 1895

Banks

Group No. 1 of the New York State Bankers' Association has unanimously adopted a resolution by which the parent body is requested to communicate with other state bankers' associations concerning the appointment of a currency commission, composed of delegates of experience, "said delegates to meet at some central city to discuss the subject of currency and formulate a system suitable to the business wants of the United States, such system to be recommended to the Congress."

One has to wonder if they made out any better than we are doing today!

Ross Brothers

In speaking of his holiday line one of the members of the firm had this to say: "We will show a line of aprons, handkerchiefs and Christmas novelties that would be a credit to a metropolitan store. Space is too limited to detail the great variety of aprons we show from 15 cents to \$2. Only an inspection will convey a clear conception of the many bargains we offer. Handkerchiefs! There is no end to the making of handkerchiefs, judging from our stock.

The holiday offerings are already in the stores today--take a good look at how the gift giving has expanded over the years!

The best one yet!

Dodging a Bicycle

(From the Washington Post & appearing in this Rutland Daily Herald)

I wish the people who write those marvelous directions about what to do in emergencies would print at the top of the column in the very largest type, "Don't try to dodge a bicycle." I am sure it would materially decrease the number of bicycle accidents. A marked copy ought to go to a woman I saw in the street the other day. She was crossing the street, when, of a sudden she saw a bicycle bearing down on her. She gave a scream and stepped back--another scream and sprang forward. Then, with a series of screams, she wobbled back and forth, the man on the wheel all the time trying to avoid her. Just when her destruction seemed unavoidable the man sacrificed himself against the curbstone. He didn't say anything. There are some silences that are expressive.

Of course, all thinking people recognize that the only sensible thing to do when you see a bicycle headed for you is to stand stock still and give the rider a chance to turn out. There are those among us, however, who have better schemes than this. I have one man-friend who has. He always carries a cane, and he has always averred that if ever a bicycle attacked him he would thrust the cane between the spokes and smash the machine. I met him yesterday. He was wearing a wan smile and a strip of court plaster on his chin. I hadn't got any further than "How--" when he put his hand in his pocket and drew out a silver cane head and three inches of stick. But he was a man all through to the last, for what he said was:--"I stopped the bicycle, anyway."

Tidbits From Then and Now

As Research Chairperson for the Rutland Historical Society, I get to handle many requests for family information. Sometimes the trail has more twists and turns than you could believe. Relying on old newspapers, census records, town or city registers etc. it seems that following the body of Fr. Thomas Lynch might be very fitting for Halloween week.

Rutland Herald, August 28, 1899

Rev. Thomas Lynch, pastor of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church Fair Haven and Vicar General of the Diocese of Vermont, died very suddenly Saturday afternoon of heart disease. He had been making some pastoral calls in Hydeville and was returning over the "Creek" road. As he approached a house occupied by a family named Hayes, a young girl, Mary A. Hayes, saw the team coming and noticed that the occupant was leaning forward in a strange way. She stopped the horse, saw that something was wrong and called for help. Father Lynch opened his eyes as the horse stopped, this being the only sign of life he gave and was dead when help came.

Rev. Lynch was 68 years old and had been stationed in Fair Haven for the past three years. This was not his first pastorate in Fair Haven, however, as he was stationed here once before, a number of years ago. He had also held charges in West Rutland and in towns in the northern part of the state and at one time in Burlington. He was widely known in this section and had hosts of friends, who will miss him greatly. He is survived by one sister, Mrs. Margaret Farley of New York.

I received a request from a family descendant [in Ireland] for information as to where Fr. Lynch was buried. The following was the result of my "digging".

According to the *Rutland Herald* of August 29, 1899, Rev. Thomas Lynch had served as Vicar General of the diocese so the folks in Burlington thought he should be buried there. They sent a delegation to Fair Haven to carry out the request, but were rebuffed by the Fair Haven folks who wanted him buried there. It was decided that Fr. Lynch would be buried in the yard in front of his church.

On August 30th, the *Rutland Herald* stated that the funeral was the largest that had ever taken place in Fair Haven. It was attended by the Vermont Bishop as well as priests from all over Vermont, New York and Massachusetts. He was buried in front of the church in Fair Haven. So ends the story? Not really! Fr. Lynch was not about to rest in peace.

The obituary indicated that Fr. Lynch was survived by one sister, Mrs. Margaret Farley of New York. The people from Cavan, Ireland, who had requested the information, were totally surprised to hear that he had a sister. As we followed up with a search for this sister, the trail drew a bit murky as the names of Margaret Farley and Margaret Fagan, who turned out to be a niece, confused everyone. [The people from Ireland have solved that one as a result of our information].

A call to the Diocesan Archivist produced the information that Fr. Lynch's funeral was taken care of by family members and he was buried in Boston. This came as a surprise to the people in Ireland as they were unaware of any relatives in Boston. When St. Mary's Church in Fair Haven was contacted, they were unaware that anyone was buried in front of the church. A search of their old records found Fr. Lynch. Paperwork noted that his body had been removed in 1901 to a cemetery in Boston. This led to the discovery of another story found in the newspaper.

Rutland Weekly Herald, November 28, 1901

The body of Rev. Thomas Lynch was brought to this city Thursday morning from Fair Haven and shipped on the sleeper to Boston, where it will be permanently buried in Holyhood Cemetery.

He died at Fair Haven in August 1899. He was a pastor in this state for over 40 years and was located at West Rutland for about 15 years. His body was buried in the church yard at Fair Haven.

Last year his nephew, Father Gerald Fagan of Boston, ordered and paid for a monument, which is still at Hulihan Brothers' shop, to be erected over his uncle's grave. Bishop Michaud of the Vermont Diocese took legal steps to prevent Father Fagan from erecting the monument or removing the body. Fr. Fagan in turn brought suit against the bishop to enjoin him from interfering with the erection of a monument. Bishop Michaud finally agreed to allow the removal of the body if it were taken from the state. Fr. Fagan endeavored to have the body buried in this city, but to this Bishop Michaud would not consent, so the body was taken to Boston.

Finally, Fr. Lynch, who had served many parishes in Vermont could rest.

If you hear about ghosts of the past this Halloween, rest assured that is not Fr. Lynch seeking to return to his original grave or perhaps make a stop in Rutland. MAYBE??

Tidbits From Then and Now

Abbreviated statement by Herbert Hoover in Rutland Herald, November 3, 1932

Elevated to the presidency of the United States, it has been my task for these past years to contend with the greatest peace-time disaster which has ever come to the American people.

[This in reference to the Depression and Recession of the economy in the late 1920s through 30s.]

Rutland Herald, November 9, 1932

RECORD VOTE CAST IN CITY, INTEREST AT HIGH PITCH

Roosevelt Takes Rutland by 591 Margin

Rutland ballot wielders probably made a record in yesterday's national, state, county and local elections when they turned out to the number of 7740. Except for the total that the city gave Alfred E. Smith, Democratic candidate for president in 1928, it is doubtful if ever in history Rutland Democrats polled such a consistently large total of votes for such a large number of offices.

Hoover carried only four of the eleven wards in the city, but he took three of the largest, Ward 1 Ward 5 and Ward 9 by sufficiently large margin to somewhat offset Roosevelt's large margin in most of the others.

Some of the other totals: Ward 2, Hoover 255; Roosevelt, 627; Ward 3, Hoover 181, Roosevelt 274; Ward 6, Hoover, 256; Roosevelt, 559; Ward 7, Hoover, 94; Roosevelt, 369; Ward 8, Hoover, 40; Roosevelt 458; Ward 10, Hoover, 216; Roosevelt, 284. Hoover lost Ward 4, 129 to 133 by the slim margin of four votes.

CITY DEMOCRATS "ENJOY" THEMSELVES WHEN THEY HEAR OF HOOVER'S DEFEAT

Roosevelt's victory was wildly celebrated by Rutland Democrats about midnight last night when they laughed to ridicule the dire "Republican warning" that grass would grow in the streets if Roosevelt were elected. A burlesque "lawn mower" parade began by one highly jubilant citizen soon grew to a huge demonstration.

The crowning achievement of the celebration was the making of a bonfire of the Hoover-Curtis banner which hung over Center Street beside the dummy policeman at the intersection of Merchants Row and Center Street, then calling out all of the city's fire apparatus to extinguish the blaze.

Meanwhile the cheering throngs filled the streets to hoot the firemen.

The "Hoover" picture was jammed into a dilapidated old casket, jostled into a wrecked hearse and paraded up and down Merchants Row. The din of blaring automobile horns and glow of torch light heralded the approach of the celebrating throngs as they went from street to street. Blank cartridges were fired frequently.

Lawn mowers were pushed in front and dragged behind automobiles. Their clatter on the pavement added to the din of the procession which grew as the line turned each corner.

Traffic rules were suspended and the noise became bedlam and the merry-makers filled the streets from curb to curb.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 10, 1945

[Condensed Editorial]

Rutland's observance of Armistice Day this year will have a new significance. The tributes, silent and spoken, will not be merely to those who died in the first World War, but also to those who gave their lives in the World War just ended, for this day is dedicated to the fallen of both wars.

It seems particularly fitting that this is so. More than one man who volunteered to serve in the conflict just ended, also served in that other conflict, the one which was to end all wars. The sons of World War I veterans are the veterans of World War II. That relationship is not being forgotten in the observance of Armistice Day this year. Perhaps no other American holiday touches the hearts of the people as this one does. Memorial Day, commemorating the fallen heroes of the Civil War, is still observed, but the ranks of the GAR are so sadly thinned that only a very few remain to pay tribute to comrades who have gone on before.

The sacrifices of World War I veterans have not been forgotten, but much fresher and more poignant are the losses of the late war. Armistice Day is a tribute to them and to the others who fought and fell in that other World war. Some gave their lives in far-off lands, but all of them served the same cause. It takes such a cause as freedom to draw men from their homes and loved ones to fight and defeat a distant enemy. We at home should never forget that cause, nor cease to be grateful to those who defended it so gallantly and at such bitter cost. There is still an obligation of those who remain to see that the sacrifices of those who died are not in vain.

Services and Parade to be Held Under Sponsorship of American Legion Post

Final plans for the Armistice Day observance in Rutland were announced last night by Glover W. Rogers, commander of the local American Legion post. On Sunday, there will be services at the boulder in Main Street Park and a parade and special ceremonies will be held at the city honor roll in Depot Park. Veterans of Foreign Wars post is sponsoring a radio program over the local station, and on Monday, the auxiliary to the legion post will serve a turkey dinner for all veterans, in Trinity parish house.

On Sunday, members of the Legion will march to the boulder, where the group, with firing squad, bugler and the Rutland City band, will participate in the organization's Armistice Day ritual. From the boulder, the band, Legion and Auxiliary, with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and auxiliary, will parade to the honor roll in Depot Park, where, after the opening selection by the band, Commander Rogers will open the program, introducing Albert A. Creed, past commander, as presiding officer. Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski will represent the city officials. The invocation will be given by Dr. John M. Thomas of Mendon. Another band selection will be followed by a memorial prayer, given by the Rev. Michael A. Demasi of St. Peter's Church. After a solo by George M. Reedy, Rabbi Jacob Handler of the Rutland Jewish Center will offer prayer. Reedy will then sing again. Maj. Gen. Leonard F. Wing is scheduled to present a

memorial address if his health will allow. The benediction will be given by Dr. Thomas, after which the firing squad will give a salute, taps will be sounded and the band will play the Star Spangled Banner, closing the ceremonies.

Armistice Day, now known as Veterans Day commemorates all veterans who have given their personal time and their lives, in the wars that followed, to keep our country's freedom secure.

One question that comes to mind is: Does anyone know what became of the World War II honor roll that stood in Depot Park ?

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 19, 1942

CITY IS 50 YEARS OLD TODAY; WAR PREVENTS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Municipal Charter Signed by the Late Governor Fuller November 19, 1892; Leon G. Bagley Only Living Member of First Aldermanic Board

The city of Rutland is 50 years old today. Although the municipal government did not start to function until April 1, 1893, the city was given a charter by the state Legislature late in 1892 and the document was approved by the late Levi K. Fuller, then governor, on November 19, 1892.

Because of the war activities, no formal celebration of the anniversary will be undertaken at this time, Mayor Henry B. Carpenter said yesterday, but recognition of the fact that the city has passed the half century mark will be taken in connection with the dedication of MacArthur airport, probably early next year.

The setting up of the city government on April 1, 1892 was marked with considerable ceremony and the late Dr. John A. Mead, the first mayor, who later was governor of the state, referred to the occasion in his inaugural address as "one of the most eventful days in the history of this portion of the beautiful valley of the Otter Creek."

Dr. Mead, who had been elected three weeks before in a contest in which he defeated John W. Stearns by a vote of 1579 to 513, called attention to the fact that Rutland, which often had been referred to as the largest town in the world, had been granted a charter after 12 years of discussion. The town had been chartered in 1761.

Leon G. Bagley of Pleasant Street, now the only living member of the city's first Board of Aldermen and of the Rutland Village Board of Trustees, was present at the inaugural ceremony. Also on the aldermanic board were Thomas C. Robbins, president, John A. Sheldon, Justus R. Hoadley, N. S. Stearns, Edward V. Ross, Albert Brousseau, Thomas H. Browne, John W. Brislin, John McGuirk and Samuel T. Braley. The city had 11 wards then, as now, but aldermen were elected by wards instead of serving the city at large, as at present.

L. G. Bagley, who had long been interested in town and state affairs, having served on committees which had to do with the division of Rutland town in 1886, became president of the aldermanic board in 1894. He explained last night that the creation of the city of Rutland in 1892 was not the result of hasty action. For a dozen years there had been heated discussions over the matter, with men of prominence at variance in their opinions.

Considerable support was given to a plan to charter the entire town of Rutland some six miles square, into a city organization. This scheme was vigorously opposed by the farming element and by people residing in the villages of West Rutland and Proctor. The plan to charter the city with its present 11 wards finally won out.

Bagley was chairman of the committee on legislation of the board of aldermen reporting the first ordinances of the city, which were adopted by the city council on August 9, 1893. He also was chairman of the first committee on a fire department, 1893-95, upon whose investigation the present paid department was established to succeed a volunteer village department of 200 members.

The city's first clerk was Harry B. Whittier, who served until April 1, 1939, about a year before his death. Charles Clark was the first treasurer, Fred M. Butler, city judge, James Beattie, overseer of the poor, Kingsley K. Hannum, fire chief, and Daniel P. Peabody, police chief. In those early days the city had a liquor agent, Henry C. Tower.

The 1700 pupils in the public schools in 1892 were taught in 39 rooms by 43 teachers.

The city's grand list was \$90,397 at the time and the tax rate was \$1.58 in comparison with a present list of more than \$133,000 and a rate of \$4.10 last year. It cost \$30,945 to run the city 50 years ago, charities accounting for \$6539 of this sum. Today the budget is about \$650,000. The 1941 charity bill was \$60,956.

The city spent \$9,613 for lighting its streets during the first year of its existence whereas the annual bill at present is about \$17,500.

Rutland has had 21 mayors during the half century. Besides the incumbent, Henry B. Carpenter, there are only two men living who have occupied the mayor's chair, James C. Dunn, now commissioner of public safety, and Henry C. Brislin, now postmaster.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 24, 1920

RUTLAND CITY BAND OLDEST IN VERMONT

Organization Was Formed 45 Years Ago by Public Spirited Citizens

UNBROKEN EXISTENCE

At a recent meeting of the members of the Rutland City Band the following officers were elected: President Frank M. Wilson; Vice president, George T. Chaffee, Treasurer, Joseph C. Cox; Secretary, Edward Rothman; Director and business manager, Phillip H. Brehmer.

About 45 years ago there was no band in Rutland and different citizens, some of whom were Major Kingsley, General Ripley, Walter Landon and Lucius Morse, decided that Rutland needed a band. These gentlemen with the help of others purchased a set of instruments and equipped the members of a new band. Up to the present time the Rutland band has had an unbroken existence.

The Rutland band is probably the oldest band in the state of Vermont. Several other rival bands were started in the state during this time, but none has continued until this time.

Mr. Brehmer was director of the Rutland band two different seasons about 30 years ago and now as present director is doing everything in his power to make the band a success. There are 25 men in the Rutland City Band and it has been planned to give 20 concerts during the coming season. If good weather permits, the first concert will be given on Decoration Day. It is expected that new uniforms will be purchased and already a large number of selections and overtures have been bought.

Director Brehmer plans to give Sunday concerts at which time special music will be featured.

The city of Rutland started an appropriation about 10 years ago for the benefit of the Rutland band and has continued to appropriate money up to the present time. This appropriation has consisted of one per cent of the grand list and it is hoped that at the next annual election the citizens of Rutland will vote again for the support of a band. Without this appropriation it will almost be impossible to support a band of which Rutland will be proud.

Negotiations are now under way and the contracts are practically closed by the business manager for engagements to furnish music at the fairs in White River Junction, Cambridge, Middlebury and Hudson Falls this season.

It is expected that the Rutland City Band will probably be the regimental band for the battalion headquarters at the new armory that is to be erected soon in Rutland.

March 2, 1920

Rutland City Band Has Surprise Party

The members of the Rutland City Band were honored guests last evening at a surprise party held in their rooms in the Savings Bank building, the occasion being the 44th anniversary of the organization. Last evening about 30 members of the band attended the regular rehearsal. At the close the wives, sisters and young lady friends came to the hall and the musicians were given an elaborate supper of coffee, cake, sandwiches, salad, ice cream and other dishes. About 60 persons were present.

During the supper several members were called upon for remarks, including P. H. Brehmer, the director, Charles H. Young, former business manager and Edward Rothman. They all responded with remarks of the progress of the band and of its bright prospects for the coming year.

There have been questions over the years as to whether the Rutland City Band is truly the oldest. If the numbers above are accurate, the band is now 132 years in existence.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 28, 1921

C. OF C. PICNIC AT ELFIN LAKE TODAY

Community Gathering Will Include Program of Field and Water Sports

Today is a big day for members and friends of members of the Rutland Chamber of Commerce. At 2 o'clock a long line of motor cars will start from Court Street for Elfin Lake, also known as Fox Pond, where the first annual outing and basket picnic of the Chamber is scheduled for afternoon and evening. The advance ticket sale assures a crowd of more than 500.

Several interesting events are on the program of the day and these will be made permanent through the taking of a film of the outing from start to finish. Many feet of film will be ticked off as the cars wind their way along the picturesque road between Rutland and the lake. A big space has been cleared for parking near the beach. This will take care of about 60 machines and many others will be sent along to the field where the baseball game is to take place.

Grist for the camera will be provided by Rev. Arthur Griffin of Wallingford and Postmaster P. M. Meldon of Rutland, who will face the crowd to speak graceful words of welcome. Then comes the long anticipated ballgame between the pick of the business men of Wallingford and Rutland. Dr. Earle Johnson will captain the Rutland defenders, while Will A. Davis leads the Wallingford defenders. Teams will be selected from the following.

Wallingford--Barney Aldrich, Geo. Stratton, Bert MacFarland, John Earl, George Sabin, W.W. Maranville, Mgr. Clyde Buswell, W. A. Davis, Capt., R. C. Taft, W.W. Ferguson, L. B. Congdon and J. H. Miller.

Rutland--Edward C. Paige, H.C. Durkee, W.R. Kinsman, L.G. Egelston, G.A. Bucklin, James A. Lillis, P.F. Howley, H.W. Vaughn, O.D. Ward, G.E.L. Badlam, Walter S. Fenton, Dr. G.E. Price, Fr. L. Albert Vezina, Harry J. Dorion, W.R. Spaulding, Henry Lavery, W.W. Nichols, J.R. Barney, Octave Chamberland, Chas.W. Scott, Fred A. Field, Jr., Lawrence W. Jones, Raymond C. Bridges, Geo. N. Harman, Charles A. Matthews, H.H. Branchaud, Edwin W. Lawrence, Fr. Bernard Kelley, Geo. Cassidy, Fred O. Stafford, L.G. Murphy, Dr. W.R. Pond, F.B. Howard, Charles R. Tossing and Bartley Costello.

Prizes for all events will be presented to the victors on the field.

One of the unusual features will be a "For Dam Bul Ance." which will be under the supervision of a capable medical corps. A young intern, whose identity is unknown, whose skill is questionable and whose name is Cheney; Hospital Steward Bob Bibby, redoubtable plier of lemon and sponge; Ralph Beale, he of the lulling and dulcet accents in G; and last but not least, "A NURSE," imported and overtrained for the occasion.

A pole race between teams representing the east and west side of Merchants Row, captained respectively by His Honor and Ike Miller will follow the ballgame, . The Ride of Death, or Montpelier or Bust, a political melee in one act, will be one of the day's best. Entrants: Senator Nick, Bill the Comish, Walter the Boss, Medicine Jim, Colonel Lillis, for ladies.

Water events will take place at about 5 o'clock, the crowd trekking back to the beach from the scene of the field sports. It is expected that the following will be among the aquatic contesters: Clayton Kinney, Charles Scott, Bob Blake, Dr. Charles Swift, Maurice Bellerose, Charles Purdy, Bill Murphy, Harp Mullen and others.

Three races are projected. 100-yard free for all; 50 yard dash for men of 60 years or more and 50 yard dash. The program calls for: 25 yards--Boys of all ages; 50 yards--Boys of all ages; 25 yards--Girls of all ages; Tug race; Plunge for distance; Diving contests and Exhibition by F. E. Bowker, Jr.

Throughout the afternoon lemonade and ice cream will be freely distributed. The Wallingford band is to give a concert preceding the program and throughout the afternoon as occasion requires. The picnic supper will get underway between 6 and 7 o'clock, followed by a community sing before the crowd calls it a day.

July 29, 1921

750 JOIN IN FUN AT PICNIC OF C. OF C.

.....
More than 75 automobiles constituted the line which wound its way through the city bound for the big day for Rutland's new Chamber. The success of the initial event of this sort for Rutland assures the outing of an annual place in the calendar of affairs. A moving picture was taken by W. W. Peck, a movie photographer who makes his home in Rutland during the season. The movie will be shown at theaters throughout New England, and will later become the permanent property of the Chamber of Commerce.

Fox Lake, known as Elfin Lake, proved a practically flawless site for the event....From now on it is sure to be one of the popular recreation spots of the County.

off 494
will go in 494
2/27/3

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 7, 1921

AIRPLANE BOMBING RAID WILL ANNOUNCE APPROACH OF \$ DAY

Elaborate and far reaching preparations have been made by the 100 or more Rutland merchants who have arranged for the "Dollar Day" that is to occur on Thursday, November 10. This morning all of southern Vermont is to be bombarded from the air with hand bills, dollar bill size, thrown from an airplane.

This stunt will be a feature event in itself and indicates how sincerely the merchants are starting out to make the day a success. The plane will be piloted by Aviator J. C. Jones of Randolph, and will travel to all points from Bennington to Middlebury and from Windsor to Whitehall.

Dollar Day was undertaken in Rutland for a number of reasons, the committee announced. Other cities have held such events during the past few months with phenomenal success. Manufacturers inform Rutland buyers that the dollar day movement is proving a great force in stimulating industry and relieving unemployment.

Great stocks of goods have been secured for this event and many local merchants say that their supply houses are cooperating in price concessions.

At the same time the variety and extent of the service performed to the community by Rutland's retail establishments will be demonstrated in this cooperative event. It is the purpose to fix in the minds of folk throughout this region that Rutland is a good place in which to do business, to visit and to live. Special train service has been arranged between Whitehall and Rutland over the Delaware and Hudson Railroad for "Dollar Day."

Besides the vast amount of general advertising, the individual stores have planned on special campaigns to call attention to the lines of merchandise they will be handling at the \$1.00 price.

November 9, 1921

RETAIL FORCES ARRAYED FOR TREMENDOUS MOVEMENT OF STOCKS

For weeks Rutland stores have been getting ready for "Dollar Day". More than 100 merchants have thrown themselves heart and soul into an effort to bring about a day that will never be forgotten in the history of merchandising in this city. The fact that every line of retail selling is included in this sale offers a further advantage to visitors here tomorrow. There is not a single article of necessity or luxury that cannot be obtained in Rutland tomorrow at a greatly reduced price.

All that is necessary for the success of the day is good weather. In this connection, the first rain insurance ever taken out in Rutland has been secured by the merchants committee to cover the

expenses of the event. This was written by the Bridges Agency, which has also placed several rain insurance policies with the individual merchants. These policies insure against one-tenth of an inch rainfall during a period of five hours in the morning of "Dollar Day."

Rain or shine, Dollar Day will take place.

November 11, 1921

RUTLAND DOLLAR DAY UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS UNIVERSAL VERDICT

While the overturn of money was doubtless large, the profit accruing to the merchants was doubtless small, possibly none in the aggregate. But to the buyer there was given a demonstration of just how much the dollar will purchase. Rutland merchants advertised and did as they promised to give the maximum of value in goods for every dollar received.

The amount of work required and the amount of money expended in advertising to "put across" Rutland's "Dollar Day" is indicative of the team work which was strikingly illustrated by the city's merchants. Without that team work, without the initiative, the "pep" that campaign managers must possess to win, the "Dollar Day" would have hardly weathered the storm of snow, sleet and rain which prevailed much of the time yesterday.

Rutland gets its name in red letters on the map of enterprising cities and to its merchants belongs the credit for doing their part, 100 per cent, in meeting the needs of the buying public in this territory. In spite of the weather, there was not a store in the city, which may be said to have gotten into the stride of the day's spirit, that did not have all of the business it could handle practically every hour of the sale. How a much larger volume of business could have been managed, had the weather been favorable, is somewhat of a question. There was no real slump throughout the day, from 8:30 o'clock in the morning until 9 at night, when the stores shut their doors and called it a "Dollar" day.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 14, 1921

PINE HILL TO SUPPLY CITY'S STREET STONE

Workmen of the Street Department under the direction of Commissioner of Public Works, Joseph Feeley, are installing the stone crushing machinery and bins at the rock pits on Pine Hill. This is the machinery that has been stationed for many years at the stone pit on North Main Street and Commissioner Feeley says it is in good condition.

The City also has plenty of drills and in the early spring the City Department expects to be quarrying all of the stone that will be used.

The new quarry pits are located on the old Pierpoint property and comprise about 200 acres. This tract of land was recently given the city by Henry O. Carpenter. It is planned at some future date to transform a large part of it into a modern city park. The quarrying of the stone will in no manner hinder this plan and Commissioner Feeley says that the plot contains all of the stone that the city can use for at least 50 years.

The Commissioner has not definitely decided whether the city will build the road to the pits from Oak Street or from Evergreen Avenue. It is probable that the latter route will be selected, because it is more direct.

The quarrying of its own stone will save the City a large amount of money. The building of the Strongs Avenue and South Main Street cement concrete roads required about 3500 tons of stone, all of which was imported from Port Henry, NY. The city believes that, for its use the coming year, from 6000 to 7000 tons will be an adequate supply.

It is also the desire of the Public Works Department to have the City build its own permanent roads this year. To do this, all that will be necessary is the purchase of a concrete mixing machine at a price of about \$4,000. The City under these conditions could build a mile of concrete road for about \$31,000.

December 30, 1921

WORK FOR 1921 ENDS, PLANS UNDER WAY TO GIVE CITY BETTER STREETS

The street work for 1921 has been entirely completed and there will probably be no more done by the street department until next spring. Workmen under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works, Joseph Feeley, have been busy for the past few weeks getting the new quarry pit on Pine Hill ready for installing the stone crushing machinery.

This work has been practically completed and the heavy stone crusher, which weighs about 20,000 pounds, will be moved this morning from the quarry pit on North Main Street to the Pine

This work has been practically completed and the heavy stone crusher, which weighs about 20,000 pounds, will be moved this morning from the quarry pit on North Main Street to the Pine Hill quarry. The crusher will be moved on skids and it will require at least 12 horses to carry it to its future destination. Commissioner Feeley has completed plans for a road from the extension of Pierpoint Avenue through the vacant lots to Evergreen Avenue and from there to the quarry.

The Public Works Department will have many thousands of dollars to spend for street improvement work next year, as the mayor's budget calls for 20 per cent of the grand list to be used for street work.

A \$50,000 bond issue will be used to build a permanent road from the Center Rutland Town line to the business section of the city. The road will be built of cement concrete and will be 18 feet wide.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Tis The Season, Through The Years

December 19, 1917

As one of the fuel conservation plans under discussion in this city, it has been suggested that Saturday sessions of schools be held so that the Spring vacation could be lengthened, during which it will, of course, not be necessary to heat the several building. Superintendent of Schools David B. Locke estimates that the vacation shutdown of the various heating plants would result in a savings of about 200 tons of fuel. The board of education has the matter of fuel conservation under consideration , but no action has been taken.

December 26, 1917

A Victrola concert was given yesterday afternoon by Mrs. M. H. Loukes for the prisoners at the House of Correction. The Victrola was placed in the guard room where it could be heard plainly in the cells and about 75 records were played for the men, who expressed their appreciation of the music.

December 12, 1923

Beginning Monday, December 17, the stores of the city will be open evenings until after Christmas.

December 26, 1923

Rutland ice dealers who ordinarily on Christmas Day are sharpening their saws and other tools, getting sleds ready and taking inventory of their warm clothing preparatory to starting the annual ice harvest on the following day, are this year sitting back and waiting for a procrastinating nature to freeze lakes and ponds to ice of sufficient thickness for commercial use.

December 12, 1934

Yesterday afternoon a huge spruce tree was expected in Depot Park through the efforts of the Rutland Chamber of Commerce and the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation. The tree will soon be illuminated for the Christmas season.

An official of the light and power company last night stated that he believed that another attempt would be made in the spring to successfully transplant a Christmas tree on the same site. The hot summer months and lack of sufficient rainfall proved too much for the tree set out last year. Its branches became withered and it finally had to be uprooted and carted away.

December 19, 1934

A Kris Kringle campaign to get families to act as Santa Claus for a needy family is headquartered at the Rutland Herald. There are more than 400 needy families. So far there are not many more than 100 families who have agreed to look after one of these families on Christmas.

December 26, 1934

With the unanimous opinion that Rutland Christmas business had been the best in years, merchants sat down to their Christmas dinners yesterday with the feeling that the proverbial wolf, if he had not gone into hibernation, had at least moved far enough away from the door so that people could hurry in and out in safety with their gaily beribboned Christmas bundles. "Christmas business has been very fine this year---the best since 1930," was the opinion of William C. Carbine, of the Carbine Clothing Company.

December 19, 1945

Mt. St. Joseph Academy and Rutland High School have been operating half days for the past week with morning solid sessions, to allow the students to take part in special Christmas events, to work in the stores and to prepare for the holiday.

Now in December 2008

Although no longer needed for commercial use, is the ice thick enough for skating and fishing? Is the current recession hurting the buying of gifts? And it is obvious that the schools, churches and many organizations are still collecting food and gifts for the needy. Even the problem of heating homes, schools and businesses is in evidence. Just seems like history keeps us going in circles! But we all seem to come through, no matter what holiday we celebrate, we care about each other and look for peace. That's what matters!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, January 23, 1869

THEN AND NOW

Editor Herald: -- I have just finished the perusal of the first two numbers of Vol. 75, of the Weekly Herald, and I observe that the improvements in the "Time Honored," have for the last quarter of a century kept pace with the growth of Rutland Village. While looking over these two numbers I was led to a comparison of the dimensions and amount of reading matter contained in the paper as now issued, with what it was in 1842 when I commenced an apprenticeship to the "Art Preservative," in the office of its publication. The paper was then a folio of five columns to the page, and known as the "Noisy Herald," a name derived from a motto line printed under the heading, while under the management of Major Fay. The reading matter usually occupied about two pages. Each page was narrower by about an inch, making the size of the sheet considerably smaller than half the present dimensions. The average of six pages are devoted to reading matter, giving more than five times as much now as then.

Twenty-six years ago [1843], a "jour," and two apprentices used to set up, print, fold and mail the weekly edition of the paper and do what job work came in. The wages paid at that time, was about \$6.00 per week for journeymen and about \$3.00 per week for apprentices in their third year, payable half cash and half "store pay." The paper was "worked off" on a Smith hand press, with a Guernsey "patent" self-inker attachment and a "token," or 240 sheets an hour, was considered fair work. On one occasion, while "pulling," a couple men came in to see newspapers printed, when one of them pulled out a "bull's eye" to time me. He informed his comrade that I was pulling at the rate of five impressions per minute, which appeared to astonish him at the rapidity with which newspapers were made.

The subscription price then was \$1.50 per annum. Good dry maple wood could then be bought for \$1.50 and it was frequently taken in exchange for the Herald: a cord for a year. It took 10 to 15 lbs. of butter to pay a one year subscription, or 6 to 10 bushels of potatoes. Everything to eat and drink was cheap and plenty in those days. At that time, the Herald was published by White & Guernsey. In 1843 Mr. Guernsey sold his interest to his partner, White, and went to Montpelier. He is now in Beloit, Wis., still engaged in the printing business. Mr. White soon after (in 1844) sold the office to Mr. G. H. Beaman and moved to Bennington. He has since 1861 been a clerk in the Paymaster General's office in Washington.

In my first year's apprenticeship I was the Herald's village carrier, and of those to whom I made my weekly visits, the largest portion have passed from earth. Those still living in Rutland are James Barrett, Samuel Barker, H. L. Cheney, G. Cheney,

2nd, Barney Cain, Alanson Dyer, Luther Daniels, Melzer Edson, Jacob Edgerton, M. G. Everts, Ira Fisher, F. W. Hopkins, Moses Hawkes, J. B. Porter, F.N. Pratt, Mrs. Harriet Strong, James Taylor and R. R. Thrall. [Including those who had passed, the Rutland residents and ones who had moved from Rutland, "Ben" must have delivered close to 100 newspapers each week].

May the Herald and the village continue to grow and thrive, while I remain yours,
Ben
Washington, Jan. 20, 1869

RUTLAND GRADED SCHOOL DISTRICT

The district clerk of the Rutland graded school district has made his report for the year 1868, from which we make the following statistics, which may be set down as reliable:

Number of deaths in 1868	61
Number of births "	139
Number of children (over 4 and under 20)	1,532
Number of families	980

The oldest person in the district is Mr. John Carlon, who resides on Green Street and is 86 years of age. The youngest person is two days old. Of the sixty-one who have died, 2 were killed by the cars [railroad], 2 were killed by boiler explosions, 1 committed suicide, 3 died of old age and the remainder died of various diseases. Thirty-five were males and twenty-five were females; eleven being under one year of age.

Of the 139 persons born in 1868, seventy-eight were males and sixty-one females.

The condition of the inhabitants, since the last annual census, have greatly improved. Less drunkenness was found, fewer destitute families and everything indicated a more general degree of prosperity.

By the way, from the same January 1869 paper: "Snow to the depth of five feet and five inches has fallen in some portions of Vermont the present winter."

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, March 29, 1920

HIGHEST BIDDER WILL GET OLD WORKHOUSE

The Vermont House of Correction, consolidated with the state's prison at Windsor some weeks ago, is to be sold to the highest bidder. The buildings and grounds, located at the corner of State Street and Pierpoint Avenue and running north, well into the side of Pine Hill, will be sold by the state board of control. Advertisements to this effect were issued during the last week.

The property is estimated to be valued at approximately a half million dollars but it is understood that a sum considerably less than half this amount is asked by the committee, although no definite figures have been announced as yet.

The plant, thoroughly equipped, includes the immense prison buildings with their great amount of floor space, estimated at 30,000 square feet, a superintendent's house, large garage and a new workshop, with 10,000 square feet of floor space presently in use. All the buildings are of brick, in the best of repair and ready for instant use.

The equipment includes two 125 horsepower Corliss engines; one Ideal engine and generator, motors, dynamos, pumps, switch board equipment and all such parts to a complete plant. There is also room for expansion, for the state owns and will sell to any purchaser a plot of 75 acres, or it is understood the present plant will be sold separately if so desired.

The location of the buildings less than a third of a mile from the tracks of the Rutland and the Delaware & Hudson Railroads, running in four directions and directly beside the electric line of the Rutland Railway, Light and Power Company, makes it an ideal proposition as far as receiving and shipping is concerned. Trackage to the plant would cost almost nothing and the service would be almost immediate.

The House of Corrections, which was originally built in 1877, was consolidated with the state prison for the purpose of saving overhead expense. The number of prisoners in the latter institution has dropped 66 percent in the last 10 years. The State Street property has been placed in the hands of the State Board of Control and the special committee in charge of the details includes Judge John E. Weeks of Middlebury, director of penal institutions, and Will L. Davis of Rutland, member of the board, to whom all communications should be addressed relative to the sale of the property.

Some time ago, because of its beautiful location and extensive ground possibilities, the board offered the property to the State Board of Education as a location for a state normal school. Up to the present time the offer has not been accepted.

The House of Corrections was constructed in accordance with an act of the Legislature of 1876, introduced by the late Senator Gilbert A. Davis. A provision was made for the expenditure of

\$20,000 for a “work house.” At the same time the County made a similar appropriation for a County jail. The two institutions were run in conjunction until 1919. The State manufactured a finished marble product under the name of the Rutland Marble Manufacturing Company. Later the factory was turned into a shirt making establishment. Since that time the factory has been operated by the Tauber-Lipton Company, while this concern was waiting for the construction of their new plant on Cleveland Avenue.

Although the House of Correction was never a self-supporting institution, there was a time when the per diem cost to the state was exceedingly small. Among the Rutland men who served on the boards for many years were the late John W. Cramton and E. C. Tuttle of Rutland who was chairman of the Board of Directors of the State Prison and House of Correction for six years and eight years a member of the Board. A number of years ago Mr. Tuttle wrote an exhaustive history of the institution which was published in “*The Vermonter*” magazine in 1902.

Exerpts from: **RUTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY QUARTERLY Vol. XIX No.2**

Riverside Women’s Reformatory

In 1919 the prison was closed and all women and men transferred to the prison in Windsor. The building stood empty for two years until in a surprise move in 1921, the Legislature changed its mind and voted to return the women from Windsor to Rutland. In 1923 a Legislative appropriation made it possible to remodel the entire building. The old House of Correction became the Riverside Reformatory under the leadership of Lena Ross and her assistant Helen Koltonski, who created a national model of “no bars and a homey atmosphere for a constructive rehabilitative program for women prisoners.”

By 1966 the number of prisoners continued to drop and the Legislature voted to close the reformatory. The building was used as the Rutland County Jail for women until 1970. By October 5, 1970 the buildings of the reformatory were demolished and in 1977 plans to build a new prison at the same location were developed.

Today, the property contains a newer correctional facility. Northwest School, as well as private homes, occupy the northern portion of that same property. The brick faced granite wall, built in 1898, still stands protecting the new facility as a reminder of its past.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 18, 1923

SAVINGS BANK TO BEGIN BUILDING IN MARCH

Work on the construction of a new two-story building at the corner of West and Grove Streets, to be owned and occupied by the Marble Savings Bank, will be started not later than March 15, according to information given out at the bank yesterday and, although the definite plans for the structure have not been perfected, architects being at work on them, the bank officials are anxious to co-operate with the city in the widening of the street which will be started early in the spring. Therefore, work will be begun at the earliest possible moment.

Tenants of the building, known as the Verder block, were notified by the bank yesterday to vacate not later than March 1 and it was stated that between that date and the 15th of the same month the bank intends to dispose of the present building, either by sale or wrecking.

According to President Charles M. Smith, the actual plans for the construction and finish of the building have not been passed by the trustees of the bank and in fact the material of which the building is to be built has not been definitely decided. The bank will occupy the entire first floor and the upper floor is to be given over to offices. There will be no elevator and for this reason, it is almost assured that the building for the present will be only two stories in height.

February 9, 1923

START GROVE STREET WIDENING ON APRIL 1

The public works department will begin the task of widening the west side of Grove Street from the corner of West Street to State Street about April 1, according to the plans of Commissioner J. P. Feeley. The city last year voted a bond issue of \$25,000 to cover the work. It is understood that the work of tearing down the Verder block, at the northwest corner of Grove and West Streets will begin in March.

The plans call for the building of a 50 foot cement concrete road over the thoroughfare and also for the construction of cement sidewalks. Besides the Verder block, which is owned by the Marble Savings Bank, the only other building which requires much work is the Grove Street flats, owned by Mrs. Mary Murray. The city has entered into an agreement with the owner and work will probably be commenced within the next few weeks.

When completed the name of this part of the street will be changed to Merchants Row and the numbers will start at State Street.

This is the first work that will be undertaken by the public works department this year. Following this, it is expected that Commissioner Feeley will begin building an 18-foot cement concrete road from the Mill Village line on North Main Street south to the cement road.

March 1, 1923

TASK OF RAZING VERDER BLOCK IS COMMENCED

Contractor John Barton commenced yesterday tearing down the wooden structure at the northwest corner of West and Grove Streets, owned by the Marble Savings Bank. it is believed the task of removing the building will require about three weeks. The building is one of the oldest business structures in the city. It was owned for many years by the Verder family. It was purchased a few years ago by the bank. Plans are being considered by the bank directors for a modern bank building on the site.

The Olson Cigar and Stationary store, located at the corner will be moved this morning to the vacant store in the Spencer block on Grove Street. Frank Bruzza will commence moving his fruit and candy store to quarters in the Thrall-Bruzza block now being built on Grove Street. Victor Levene, who conducts a tailor shop on the second floor will move his business to the second floor of the Duffy block.

April 4, 1923

The weather will play a prominent part in the completing of the plans for the widening of Grove Street. Excavating cannot be started until all of the frost is out of the ground. Commissioner Feeley has a gang of men at work breaking up a ledge in Mill Village, preparatory to the building of the new cement concrete road on Main Street. He plans to have two gangs of men working on both the Grove Street and the Main Street projects at the same time. The excavating of Grove Street will be a considerable task, trees, light poles and ornamental lights must be moved and there is also about two weeks work on the sewers and about a weeks work on the water connections.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 20, 1923

RUTLAND'S FIRST ICE CARNIVAL DRAWS 800

Municipal Rink Scene of Merry Gathering as Skaters Compete for Prizes

In the flickering light cast by flaming red torches and the steadier, brighter glare of strings of brilliant electric lamps, a gaily garbed throng of Rutland's lovers of skating, the old ones young again and the younger generation in its glory, skated at the fair ground municipal rink last night until well on toward morning.

The women far outclassed the men in the glory of their raiment as might be supposed. So much more gorgeously were they garbed, however, that the prizes for best costumes went to two women instead of a woman and a man. The latter sex hung their heads in shame.

Mrs. Jack A. Crowley, dressed as Prince Charming from Alice in Wonderland and Mrs. T. W. McKay as a Russian Cossack, both costumes elaborate and colorful, were given the prizes. In marked contrast was the disguise of Leo Grandy, that of a hobo, for which he received an award as the person most grotesquely dressed.

There were races. Andrew Catozzi won the quarter-mile race for men and Gertrude Meyers the same event for women. William Hevey was winner of the half-mile for men.

No amateur fancy pair skaters appeared, but John Hurley and little Miss Frances Parker gave an exhibition from the International School of Skating and Henry Pecor, William LaMountain and F.B. Howard gave an exhibition of figure skating.

Eight hundred people flocked to the fair grounds last night for this, Rutland's first ice carnival conducted by the Rutland Chamber of Commerce. It was an ideal night. A new moon, aided by myriads of stars, did what it could to brighten the scene and despite a certain frosty tang in the air, the crowd apparently enjoyed itself to the extreme.

Music was furnished by a huge Magna Vox and bonfires around the rink added to the warmth and festiveness of the scene.

The costumes were many and various. There was the usual quota of clown, pierrot and pierrette masques and there were many gaudy skating rigs, not easily catalogued, but nevertheless effective. Many were there in knickers and all types of sweaters, some bright, some dark, all combining to make the scene a bright one.

The warming house did good service and was a popular mecca for the spectators who occasionally succumbed to a chilled feeling and took their way hither.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 30, 1923

Excerpts from L.S. Hayes' memories of Rutland Railroad History

In the early days of railroads, the Rutland & Burlington Railroad was advertised as extending from Burlington to Rockingham. In the summer of 1849, it was opened for traffic from Burlington to Rutland and from Bellows Falls to Ludlow where connection was made by stages over the mountain. When the road was opened completely in December 1849, a train from Burlington and one from Boston, with the president, directors and other officials and friends on board, met at the summit in Mount Holly and bottles of water from Lake Champlain and from the Atlantic Ocean were broken and the waters mingled together. Other and different bottles were not broken, but uncorked and served to make the occasion more joyous. For the free use of the accumulated crowd, a barrel of New England rum was rolled out, one head broken in and a number of dippers put into use.

In the first days of the Rutland road, 18-ton "wood-burner" locomotives were used on the passenger trains and it was necessary to "wood-up" twice between Rutland and Summit and four times between Bellows Falls and Summit. At those times, all train men, including express messengers and mail agents, lent a hand and were often assisted by the passengers themselves.

Early in the history of the Rutland & Burlington Railroad, the corporation became financially embarrassed. In January 1855, Sheriff George Slate of Bellows Falls sold at auction 22,000 shares of stock of the corporation for \$22.00, it being at the rate of one mill per share of \$100 face value. The purchasers of the road were Hon. William Henry, Jabez D. Bridgeman and Peyton R. Chandler, who became owners and directors of the corporation. They managed it but a short time when a thorough reorganization was effected.

During the building of the Rutland road, on September 15, 1847, a peculiar accident occurred which in all the intervening years has been considered the most remarkable in its results of any recorded in the medical world. A workman named Phineas Gage had a long iron bar blown entirely through his head and brain, by a premature discharge of a blast while making the rock cut a mile east of Cavendish station. The strange thing was that the man recovered and was able to work about 19 years thereafter. It was such a marvelous thing to relate that it was doubted by physicians everywhere and close investigation was made by surgeons from other states. The "tamping bar" was three feet and a half long and tapered at the upper end a distance of eight inches to half an inch in diameter at the lower end. It was very smooth like a spindle to a spinning wheel. The bar entered the head on the lower part of the left cheek, passed through the brain and through the skull at the

top of the head. In later years the man expressed a desire that after his death his skull, as well as the bar that passed through it, should be preserved and the two are in the museum of the Massachusetts Medical College in Boston.

Additional interesting extract from *The Rutland Road* by Jim Shaghnassy

On April 15, 1849, work was steadily approaching completion on the Rutland & Burlington line. By early autumn it was apparent that, barring a catastrophe, the Rutland & Burlington would be completed before its scheduled date at the beginning of 1850. On the strength of the rapid progress, the road put in a bid for a contract to carry the mails. The stage line operators protested against this threatened loss of revenue. They felt that natural horses could and would move the United States mail over the Green Mountains faster and safer than the iron variety.

A race was arranged to solve the dilemma and Henry H. Howe, the Ludlow postmaster, was placed in charge of the competition that started at the Bellows Falls station. A stage coach with four fast horses waited beside the track and the *Rutland* steamed quietly alongside. Howe walked slowly between the two vehicles, raised his arm, flashed it down to his side and the stage driver and four horses lunged forward. Engineer Pierce eased the throttle back and the engine began to roll. The careening stage was out of sight as the little train rolled out into the countryside.

Pierce opened the throttle wide on the upgrades, easing it only a little on the down. The little engine roared through Brockway's Mills, Chester and Gassetts. Beyond Ludlow it came to a screeching stop, and a waiting horseman took the mail sack across his saddle and galloped up the grade beyond the end of the track. Pierce hung limply from the cab window and watched him gallop out of sight.

The mail was carried over the summit to Cuttingsville where engine No. 17, the *Bellows Falls*, rolled along easily until the rider flung the sack aboard. Picking up speed as she raced along the tracks, the *Bellows Falls* rammed through the Rutland home yard like a demented demon. At Pittsford and again at Ferrisburg she screeched to a stop. Wood was sent in a torrent into her tender. Early in the afternoon the little locomotive ground to a halt in front of the new Burlington station. The Rutland & Burlington had won the race by a good two hours.

The mail contract was worth \$1,200 a month, and every cent of revenue was important to the directors. Money was tight, and the company's treasury was becoming depleted. Work was pushed rapidly toward completion of the line. On December 18, the Rutland and Burlington became a completed railroad.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, August 4, 1923

Swearing in a President --Vermont style

At shortly after 12 o'clock midnight, the quiet of the little hamlet of Plymouth, asleep in its snug mountain nest, was rudely disturbed by W. A. Perkins, telephone central at Bridgewater, who, bursting with the monumental news which had just come to him, thumped loudly on the door of the silent Coolidge home. Finally his insistent knocks were answered and the father of the man whom destiny had made president admitted him and read the scribbled message which made his son the leader of the nation. He turned and mounted the stairs to the second floor, awakened the sleeping vice president and imparted to him the soul-stirring news.

Coolidge received the news with outward calm. The necessity for taking the oath of office as quickly as possible was one of the first thoughts of the new president and he expressed a desire to accomplish this without delay. The swearing in instituted a search for a copy of the United States Constitution. Unable to find it in the Vermont laws of 1906, the vice president's secretary at Washington was wired to forward the oath immediately.

With his habitually grave and thoughtful countenance made more somber by the shadows cast by the lamp which blazed forth to the world that another son of Vermont had shouldered the burdens of his country, Calvin Coolidge swore fealty to his nation and his trust, adding to the impressive oath of office in a tone expressive of the deepest emotion--the first he had exhibited-- the words, "So help me God."

Calmly and expertly, while a crowd of the curious gazed in awe through the many-paned kitchen window, the man who took the oath of office as president by the light of a lamp at 2:47 am, stood in his shirtsleeves and shaved at the kitchen sink to prepare himself for the day and the journey which would take him out of the quiet of this native state and into the mainstream of his new activities at Washington.

The question of providing suitable protection for the new president was among the first which presented itself and Marshal A. W. Harvey of Chester was immediately called. The marshal had been out all night chasing rum-runners and when he received the word at 3:30 am he thought it was a hoax to get him off the trail. He was finally convinced and arrived at Plymouth at 6am o'clock.

An almost total lack of telephone facilities at Plymouth handicapped Coolidge, the press and other officials in keeping in contact with the world, shut out by hills, from sleepy little Plymouth. An emergency call was sent to Rutland and W. T. Durfee, superintendent of the plant of the New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, hastened a gang of men to the village. By 3:30 am a telephone had been installed in the Coolidge home, wires tapped onto the main trunk line 500 or 600 feet away, a telegraph instrument had been installed in the store across the street for the

use of the Associated Press and the United Press, and another telephone had been placed on a pole by the wayside for the use of the two press syndicates.

It had been a long night for Mr. Coolidge's trusted chauffeur and secretary. They roomed at Bridgewater, several miles from Plymouth, and when news was received of Harding's death they hastened to the side of the president. There they witnessed the ceremony of administering the oath of office and then retired. The chauffeur, Joseph McInnery, made himself comfortable in the shed, in the bed in which the president had been born in the house across the street, 51 years ago on the Fourth of July.

The hectic scenes of the early morning hours at and on the way to Plymouth were not without their occasional touches of humor. A carload of newspapermen, all of whom had been to Plymouth and back to Ludlow and were returning to Plymouth, came to blows with a cow, coming off decidedly second best. They were careening along, anxious to reach the side of the president, when, nearly at their objective, cattle being let out by a farmer crossed the road. Into one of these bovines the press car crashed knocking the animal down and running over her. The cow never ceased chewing her cud but got nonchalantly to her feet and walked away while the car hobbled into Plymouth with the radiator leaking a stream and the fenders crumpled. The car was driven by a young woman and the reporters were forced to get another car from Rutland.

President Coolidge made the trip to Rutland in a car minus spare tires. His car had had three blowouts the preceding day and new spares had been ordered, but the situation demanded an immediate attempt to reach Rutland for the start of the journey to Washington. Secret Service men and Department of Justice agents, hastily summoned from Washington, met the party at Cuttingsville and guarded the president into Rutland.

Superintendent G. L. R. French had made arrangement for a special train and the crew was ready to take the special out of Rutland, but Coolidge declined the privilege. He did however, consent to travel in the private car of George T. Jarvis, general manager of the road.

ONLY IN VERMONT!

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, May 1, 1922

HENRY FORD DECLARES THAT HARD LIFE ON THE FARM DROVE HIM INTO THE MANUFACTURE OF AUTOMOBILES

In an article written for McClure's magazine titled "My Life and Work", Mr. Ford states that life on a farm drove him into making automobiles. Although he still feels the same way about farming, he has nothing against farmers, but "there is too much hard labor on farms."

Because he was born on a farm and knew without question just what farming means, Mr. Ford invented an automobile with which he hoped, first, to lighten the farmer's task and, second, to aid people without a lot of money in their search for enjoyment and business relief.

That, in a nutshell is what Mr. Ford gives as the reason for the Ford car. It is also the reason for his interest in farm tractors and for a lot of other things that have happened in Detroit.

The automobile, however, barely escaped being a watch. Mr. Ford had a desire to do fine mechanical work and his ideas naturally turned to watches. At one period of those early days he had 300 watches and knew what made the wheels go around in every one of them. It was then he thought of the possibility of making a watch for 30 cents. In fact, he almost started in the business, but refrained when he figured out that watches were not a necessity and so would not sell well. "Just how I reached that surprising conclusion is difficult to state, now," he observed.

A combination of the farm and the watch and the sight when he was only 12 of a road engine was too much for anything plebeian in Mr. Ford's future. He started to consider the possibility of machines and after glancing at that engine, studying it, watching changes, reading and thinking, Mr. Ford branched out into the automotive industry.

The horseless carriage was a common idea. He had it, as did several other inventors, but Mr. Ford figured that steam was the best means for moving his car, and he set about making a machine to operate by steam. He built one, and it ran. It had defects, lots of them. He very carefully points out most of them. When he found he couldn't work out his difficulties to his satisfaction, he turned to gasoline--and so was born the Ford.

“It was in 1890 that I began work on a double cylinder engine, because it was quite impractical to consider the single cylinder for transportation,” he stated. Shortly after that the farm was left behind definitely and completely, when Mr. Ford went to Detroit as an engineer and machinist for the Detroit Electric Company at exactly \$45 a month. The job wasn’t much in itself, but its great beauty lay in that it kept him out in his workshop for he had spare time and he employed it.

Two years later Detroit got a thrill. Chug- a- chugging down its main streets came the gas-buggy. In the seat was Henry Ford. Behind it was a string of frightened horses and curious people. In front of it was a bulwark of wondering thousands. Henry Ford had found a way to ride without horses to drag him.

The machine, however, was a slight problem. To begin with it blocked traffic. Not that it stalled, but every time Mr. Ford stopped, the crowd started and he could not, in safety, leave the car for a moment. Always there was some curious soul who would climb aboard, play with the brakes or the clutch and then trouble commenced.

Finally, it came to a show down with the city authorities. Although there were no speed laws, no traffic ordinances, Mr. Ford had to get a permit from the Mayor to operate the machine.

Wilfred Frenier stands next to a 1910 Ford Brougham, the first Model “T” Ford to be seen on the streets of Rutland.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, October 5, 1922

MANNING PLANT WILL BE REBUILT AT ONCE

The plant of the Manning Manufacturing Company, makers of dairy and creamery apparatus, which was badly damaged by fire early yesterday morning will be rebuilt at once, it is stated by the president, Edward Manning, and the 75 men on the concern's payroll will not be thrown out of employment. The flames were first discovered in a pile of shaving in the boiler room and spontaneous combustion is believed to have been the source of the trouble. The fire was located in the main building, a one-story brick structure at the corner of Crescent Street and Cleveland Avenue. Mr. Manning says the loss will be several thousand dollars. He will not be able to determine the approximate amount for several days.

As near as can be learned, the fire was discovered about 5 o'clock and an attempt was made by employees, with the use of a stream of water from a nearby hydrant, to stop the blaze, which at this time was confined to the shaving pile in the rear of the furnaces. This being unsuccessful, an alarm was rung in from box 62, but the antics of the alarm system caused another delay. There was no watchman at the plant.

By 7:30 o'clock it looked as though the fire was under control, although there was considerable smoke and steam. In some manner, however, the fire worked its way over the oil storage room and into the shipping quarters and the dry kiln. Tongues of flame then shot high into the air accompanied by black smoke from the burning oil and dry shavings, of which there were tons. The latter part of the fire was the more spectacular.

The main room, which runs along the Cleveland Avenue end of the plant, is damaged by smoke and water and in the central part, by fire where some of the floor caved in with the heavy machinery. The office is badly damaged with smoke, water and heat, while the store room and shipping departments are totally destroyed as are the drying rooms, boilers and basement. Many electric meters are damaged.

On the floor of the main shop, a large butter-making machine was ready for shipment and this, although not hurt by fire, was damaged to a considerable extent.

There was something of a mystery as to the flames getting beyond the fire wall, which surrounds the boiler, shavings pile and oil room, but it is thought probably they followed the big steam pipes which furnish heat for the dry kilns. This is the

third time the company has had a fire and the second time the fire was first found in the shavings pile in the rear of the furnace.

Chief Reedy received a slight cut on one hand, as did Capt. Edward Mabury of Station No. 2, but beyond this none of the firemen were hurt.

The water pressure was excellent and Superintendent of Water Works Francis Tracy stated that the three hours of heavy drain on the water supply made no difference in the pressure throughout the mains, something out of the ordinary considering the extremely dry period.

[NOTE: For many years a tall chimney stood above the building at the corner of Cleveland Ave. and Crescent Street, with the name MANNING running down the side. The chimney is now gone and a more modern, service building stands in its place.]

#505

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 25, 1929

OFFICIALS IN CAPITAL CLASH OVER POST OFFICE SITE HERE

Budget Bureau Is Opposed to Locating Proposed Federal Structure Where Old Memorial Building Stands Because of Noise

A clash between the Budget Bureau and the Treasury Department's supervising architect's office over the location of the proposed \$330,000 federal building and post office is given in dispatches from Washington as the reason for the decision to eliminate the \$60,000 intended as a first installment toward paying for the building from the first deficiency bill.

This revelation was made Saturday at the office of Herbert M. Lord, director of the budget bureau.

It was said the bureau was opposed to erecting the structure on the site of the West Street Memorial building, while James A. Wetmore, supervising architect, favors the plan.

The dispatches say the attitude of the bureau is due to the opposition of Federal Judge Harlan V. Howe, who considers the Memorial Building site too near the Rutland Railroad freight yards. Noise from the yard would disturb court proceedings, in the opinion of the jurist.

"The time was short," it was remarked by an employee in the office of the budget bureau, "and in view of the difference of opinion we recommended leaving out the Rutland appropriation for the present. There will be plenty of time later to decide. Our own feeling is that Judge Howe is right and that another site should be chosen. Mr. Wetmore does not see it that way.

The comment was made in the National Capital that it would be unfair to put the new Federal building in an undesirable location in order to provide Rutland with a new post office.

It would appear from subsequent action, however, that this difference of opinion has been "ironed out," for when the second deficiency bill was drawn up it was announced that an appropriation of \$50,000 for the Rutland building project was included. Whether another clash on the site is likely to come up is a matter of speculation.

[Whew, almost another Rutland "loss"!]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, February 25, 1929

CROWD OF 2000 WITNESSES CITY'S FIRST SKI EXHIBITION

Dreams that have long filled the minds of Rutland Exchange Ski Club members were realized beyond all expectation yesterday afternoon. More than 2000 men, women and children turned out for the jumping exhibition at the club grounds on East Mountain and saw Casper Oimen of the Chicago Norge Ski club set a record for the new hill with a leap of 107 feet.

Earle Morse, slender Woodstock Athletic Club jumper, won the Class B competition with jumps of 89, 91 and 88 feet. Morse later set a Class B record for the hill by jumping 94 feet.

Twelve jumpers, including outstanding national, state and intercollegiate skiers took part in the exhibition. This gave the Exchange Ski Club hill its first try-out since its establishment four years ago. The snow was in almost perfect condition for the event and it is believed that some of the records set may stand for several years.

Long before 1:30 P.M., the appointed time for the opening of the meet, hundreds of persons were on the grounds and Woodstock Avenue was black with automobiles and pedestrians on their way. The toboggan chute was busy during most of the afternoon.

Oimen, with a total of 298 feet in three jumps, led the Class A competition. Halvon Bjorngard of the Aurora Ski Club, Red Wing, Minn., was second, with a total of 287 feet and Russell Froberg of the Minneapolis Ski Club placed third with 282 feet. Peter Folsted of the Sioux Valley Ski Club, Canton, S.D., spilled on his second leap. Gorder Ulmer of the Brattleboro Outing Club and Vermont State Champion, made three leaps of 85, 85 and 88 feet.

Fred B. Howes of the Woodstock Athletic Club placed second to his teammate Morse, in the Class B jumping, taking three leaps for a total distance of 255 feet. Gray Coane, Norwich University football star and ski jumper, was third with a total of 246 feet. Other jumpers in that class were George Des Rosiers of the Norwich Outing Club and the Chilsolm Ski Club, Rumford, Me., Carleton Gosselin, Springfield Outing Club and George H. McDonald and Harold Johnson of the Woodstock Athletic Club. Johnson, after two beautiful leaps of 89 and 90 feet, spilled on his third to lose a chance for placing in the Class B competition. In the trials for a hill record he made 92 feet. Howes jumped 93 feet, but spilled.

The jumping began about 2 o'clock, after each contestant had taken a trial flight down the steep hill. The men found the take-off and hill in perfect condition and spills were infrequent. No injuries of any kind were sustained by the 12 men.

Oimen's jump of 102 feet on his third trial clinched the Class A competition. Bjorngard had just before that leaped 100 feet. Later, Froberg, Bjorngard and Oimen tried for a hill record. Oimen's great leap of 107 feet held the crowd spellbound and surprised ski club officials, who had not expected any such record. Morse showed beautiful form in his leap of 94 feet, which sets a Class B record for the hill.

The spectators were given their greatest thrill of the afternoon, when Oimen and Bjorngard, hand in hand, came down the huge tower, made the take-off together and landed safely, after leaps of about 90 feet.

The roadway to the meet was lined with parked cars for hundreds of feet. Officials of the ski club stated that more than 1600 paid admissions had been received, while more than 2000 persons were on the grounds.

Scores of novice skiers were on hand, but none attempted to take the "big jump." Several hills in the vicinity of the grounds were used by those persons. Maurice E. Walbridge, president of the Exchange Ski Club, acted as announcer from the gaily decorated judge's box on the hill. Robert Hoag was scorer. Judges were: Dr. Earl E. Johnson, Carlton O. Wilson and Joseph E. Marceau.

Following the meet the jumpers faced a battery of photographers at the foot of the hill. Many stayed after the meet to use the toboggan chute, which was in excellent condition.

[Does anyone know exactly where the ski jump tower was located? Where was the toboggan chute?]

#507

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Evening News, August 19, 1914

OLD NICKWACKETT COMING

Hand Engine Which Was Favorite With Many Old Residents of Rutland to Be in This City for State Firemen's Tournament September 7.

Word has been received that the old Nickwackett hand fire engine, which was used for many years by the volunteer fire department here before Rutland became a city, will take part in the State Firemen's Tournament on Labor Day, the first day of the Rutland fair. The apparatus is to be brought to this city by the Greenwich, N.Y. company under the name Union Company, No. 1

The Nickwackett Company was organized a few years before the Civil War and for more than two decades, prior to the early 1870s, some of Rutland's most prominent citizens were numbered among the members. In later years it was known as the engine "pulled by Rutland's aristocracy."

About the time that the paid fire department was organized in 1893 the old fire engine was sold to Greenwich. Its visit to the city will be of much interest to many of the older residents.

The Rutland Evening News, August 28, 1914

FIRE DEPARTMENT IN 1867

Men Who Drew the Apparatus in Days of Nickwackett Engine, Which Is to Be Brought to This City for State Tournament September 7.

Because of the bringing to this city from Greenwich, N.Y., September 7 of the old Nickwackett hand fire engine, which did service in Rutland for many years, to take part in the state firemen's tournament, the following list of the members of the local department in 1867, when the engine was in its prime, will interest a great many people:

Chief engineer, N.F. Page; first assistant, J.C. Dunn; second assistant, J.M. Davis. Fire wardens: N.L. Davis, Mark S. Richardson, V.C. Meyerhoffer, E. A. Bailey and E. Whitcomb.

Nickwackett Engine Company, No. 1: Fireman, S.G. Staley; first assistant, James Brown; second assistant, Samuel Terrill; clerk, James H. Dyer; treasurer, C.E. Ross;

foreman leading hose, E.Austin; foreman suction hose, B.F.Dunklee and steward, John Austin.

Washington Engine company, No. 2: foreman, John W. Cramton; first assistant, S.T.Holcomb; second assistant, G.M. Chase; clerk, James K. McLean; treasurer, A.C. Bates; Auditor, E.H. Paine; foreman leading hose, M.P. Kingsley; foreman suction hose, E.F. Sadler and steward, P. Lynch.

Number 1, Hook and Ladder company: Foreman, W.C.Landon; first assistant, J.S. Bowman; second assistant, E.Rounds; secretary, G.W. Hilliard; treasurer, V.C.Meyerhoffer; auditor, T.Flannery.

The above list was taken from a Rutland directory 1867.

The Rutland Evening News, September 5, 1914

TO USE CRAMTON CART

Old Apparatus to Figure in Hose Races Monday

It is necessary that the Rutland Fire Department furnish a hand drawn hose wagon for the hose races in connection with the State Firemen's tournament at the fair grounds next Monday. For this purpose the old apparatus, J.W. Cramton, No. 4, has been loaned by the owner, P.W. Clement of this city.. Mr. Cramton stores the old hose cart at his Brookside estate. The town used this hose wagon for many years prior to 1893.

The Rutland Evening News, September 5, 1914

There is an interesting exhibit in the Center Street window of the Wilson Clothing Company It consists of working models of the old Nickwackett fire engine and the Washington fire engine used in this city a number of years ago. Both models were made by G.H. Mabury of this city. They are exact duplicates of the old fashioned apparatus. As has already been stated in The News, the Nickwackett engine now owned by Greenwich, N.Y., will be in Rutland for Monday's tournament. Mr. Mabury owns the Nickwackett model and Mrs. C.H. Congdon of State Street the Washington model. The former was made in 1864 and the latter in 1870.

#508

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, April 14, 1917

MILITIA GUARDING F. R. PATCH PLANT

The 18 members of the Company B Vermont National Guard of St. Albans, who have been at the local Armory for several days awaiting orders, moved their headquarters today to the clubhouse at the F.R. Patch Manufacturing Company plant and for the present will guard the plant night and day. It was stated that there had been no act of violence or threatened violence that made the move necessary.

Asked if the rumor that the plant is to make munitions of war is true, F.R. Patch said: "We have no contract for any such work and will not manufacture munitions unless the government demands it."

The Rutland News, April 17, 1917

PATCH CONCERN MAY HAVE NEW FACTORY

Rumored Local Concern Is About to Buy Controlling Stock of Glens Falls Establishment

The Glens Falls, N.Y. Post-Star states in a local news item that George T. Chaffee of this city, representing the F.R. Patch Manufacturing Company, has been in Glens Falls negotiating with the controlling stockholders of a machine making concern in the New York State town for the purchase of their stock with a view to establishing a factory at Glens Falls to be run in addition to the Rutland plant.

Neither Mr. Chaffee nor Fred R. Patch, president of the Patch Company, would discuss the proposition today, saying that the matter was in altogether too embryonic a form to talk about.

The Rutland News, April 19, 1917

PATCH CO. BUYS PLANT AT GLENS FALLS, N. Y.

Negotiations That Have Been Under Way for Some Days Are Completed--Concern Turns Out Paper Making Machinery

F. R. Patch, president of the F. R. Patch Manufacturing Company of this city, has completed the negotiations for the purchase of a plant in Glens Falls, N. Y. These have been underway for some days as stated in The News Tuesday.

The property taken over is that of the Glens Falls Machine Works. It includes a foundry and a machine shop of brick construction where 50 men are given employment. About one acre of ground surrounds the buildings.

The concern has lately been engaged in the manufacture of wet press machinery. The Patch Company has made some machinery for the Glens Falls concern during the last few years and it is supposed that much of the business of the New York State plant will continue to be handled in this city. It is denied that the purchase of the Glens Falls property means the resumption of munitions making and Mr. Patch has stated that he did not expect to again take up the manufacture of ammunition unless the government wanted the local plant for that purpose.

Taken from *Rutland Historical Society Quarterly*, Volume XXIII No 2, **Fred R. Patch, His Personal Recollections of Life at Sutherland Falls and The Founding of Patch Wegner Company**

Page 29:

“Following the onset of World War I, a contract was entered into with a Canadian Company to manufacture shrapnel, but the operation was a losing one, costing the firm some \$40,000”.

“Near the end of the war a very good investment was made when the Patch Company purchased the Glens Falls, New York, Machine Works. This was a “going” business and returned more than \$100,000 in dividends.”

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 20, 1922

198 MOTOR PARTIES USED CAMPING SITE

Nineteen States Represented by Tourists Patronizing Tenting Grounds

One hundred and ninety-eight automobile parties, representing 19 states, utilized the Rutland Chamber of Commerce camping grounds on the Milo Lester farm on the Pittsford Road [better known today as the Williams Farm] between the date of the opening of the camp, May 30, and yesterday, according to figures compiled at the Chamber of Commerce offices.

From Maine and California and all the intervening states they came and made the campsite their home for one or more nights. In addition to these camping parties, a large number of picnics, corn roasts and outings of a local nature have been held on the grounds.

The season is not yet over and it is expected that before the grounds are hidden beneath a blanket of snow, many other tourists will lodge on the outskirts of this city before passing on to other fields. The early fall cold and the beginning of schools all over the country, however, have put something of a check on summer travel so that the foreign cars seen daily in the city are by no means as numerous as they were earlier in the season.

Almost the first to stop at the camping grounds was a detachment of United States troopers [U.S. Army] numbering 207. With them were 75 animals and 24 vehicles of various descriptions

Fifty-seven Massachusetts parties stopped at the campgrounds, this state having the largest representation with New York second with 50. Vermont was the next with 17, Connecticut 16 and New Jersey 10. Other states were represented as follows:

Pennsylvania, 8; New Hampshire 7; Ohio, 6; Maine and Rhode Island, 5 each; Illinois and Iowa, 3 each; Washington, Florida, Michigan and District of Columbia, 2 each; Wisconsin, Indiana and California, 1 each.

August 3, 1923

BAY STATE TOURISTS TO BE SEEN ON SCREEN

The Belmont Improvement Association of Belmont, Vermont will present at its Community House tomorrow evening the motion picture production of the five-day automobile pilgrimage through Vermont taken May 30 to June 3 by the Vermont Association of Waltham, Mass.

The picture depicts the trip from the time it leaves the Bay State City through Massachusetts and the Green Mountain State. It shows how the members were received by the different Chambers of Commerce, boards of trade, the presidents of the University of Vermont, Norwich University and Middlebury College, by Gov. Proctor and ex-governors as well as many state and city officials.

This trip was arranged and personally conducted by R. H. Derrah, publicity director of the Hotel Association of Vermont, who will be on hand to tell the citizens and summer guests of the hill town what he is endeavoring to do to boost the Green Mountain State as a touring and vacation region.

The Improvement Association of Chester will show the pictures in the town hall on Monday evening.

It is expected that there will be from 7000 to 8000 feet of motion pictures of historical places, picturesque scenery, industries and resort attractions through Vermont ready in the fall for exhibition in the eastern and central states during the coming winter and spring.

It would be interesting to know if that film still exists. It is also quite interesting to find that boosting Vermont tourism was in its prime eighty-some years ago.

Tidbits From Then and Now

This is an update of a "Tidbits" article that appeared in Sam's Good News the week of March 4th. titled *CROWD OF 2000 WITNESSES CITY'S FIRST SKI EXHIBITION [1929]*

At the end of the article, I asked if anyone knew exactly where the ski jump tower and toboggan chute were located. Many readers contacted me to find out where these could have been, but one person came up with not only the location, but had some pictures that were taken in 1927.

According to the original article, The Exchange Ski Club hill was having its first tri-out since it was built four years previously which would be 1925. Because of the 1927 photos, I began looking for an article in that year and found several about the hill and that the existing toboggan chute had been re-curved. Further "digging" will be done and possibly a Rutland Historical Quarterly will appear in the future.

Meanwhile, the location of the hill can be seen by driving out Gleason Road to Post Road and there lies East Mountain and the area of the Exchange Ski Club jump. Enjoy the following pictures thanks to Joseph LeFrancois.

#511

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, March 15, 1918

SHRINE THEATER TO GO UNDER HAMMER

The Shrine Theater building on Wales Street, built by Cairo Temple Association which went into bankruptcy some time ago, will be sold at auction on April 6 at 2 o'clock in the afternoon. The sale will be under the direction of Ernest H. O'Brien, trustee of the bankrupt association. The lot, the large brick building and all the interior equipment, which includes 200 chairs, will go under the hammer.

Various attempts have been made to make the Shrine pay as a theater, but they have failed and it has been generally understood for some time that an auction sale of the property was contemplated. The building cost about \$60,000 and the State Trust Company holds a first mortgage for about half this amount.

March 29, 1918

By virtue of authority vested in me by the Court of Bankruptcy for the County of Rutland in the District of Vermont. I will sell at public auction, on the premises, on the 6th day of April, A.D. 1918, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, the following described real estate and personal property, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances to wit:

All the real estate of which Cairo Temple Association, a corporation duly organized under the laws of the State of Vermont, has title, situated on the west side of Wales Street, so-called, in the City of Rutland, upon which is erected the Shrine Theater so-called, and all appurtenances thereto belonging to said Cairo Temple Association.

Also all the personal property, belonging to said Cairo Temple Association, now situated in said Shrine Theater, including chairs, piano, scenery, draperies, borders, curtains and other theatrical equipment; also chairs, rugs, wicker table, moving picture machine with equipment and attachments, coat hangers, aisle and stair carpets, ticket racks, crockery, including glasses, salad bowls, glass pitchers, vinegar dishes, china fruit dishes, salt and pepper shakes, bowls, plates, cups, spoons, soup spoons, large spoons, knives, forks, table cloths, napkins, sideboard, refrigerator, gas plate and oven, range broiler, pans, pails, 31 long tables 235 dining room chairs, mirrors, fire extinguisher, over 900 theater chairs, including all the equipment of the dining room and kitchen of said Shrine Theater.

The above-described Shrine Theater was constructed recently and cost in the vicinity of \$60,000 to build and equip. The building is in excellent condition, has been well cared for and is an excellent speculative proposition to any prospective purchaser.

This property must be sold by order of the Court and because the personal property in said Shrine Theater was purchased to be used therein and is specially adapted for use in said premises, I will sell the real and personal property as a unit to the highest bidder for cash.

Dated at the City of Rutland this 23 day of March 1918. E. H. O'Brien,
Trustee in Bankruptcy.

April 6, 1918

The Shrine Theater building on Wales Street was sold at auction this afternoon under the direction of Ernest H. O'Brien, trustee in bankruptcy for the Shrine Association. The structure, with its contents was struck off to Charles H. Harrison, cashier of the Clement National Bank for \$36,150. The only other bidder was E.C.McIntyre.

[Interesting note: The State Trust Company was closely related to the Clement National Bank. E. C. McIntyre was interested in building a movie theater on Center Street prior to that time. That never happened.]

The old Shrine Theater eventually became the Strand Theater; Ray Beane's Tire Service and today you will find the Winter Farmer's Market in the theater area of the building, in back of The Rutland Natural Food Market

#512

Tidbits From Then and Now

Excerpts from "box" ads in The Rutland News, November 25, 1918

ROADS FULL OF HOLES--Let's fill these holes by getting behind this Good Roads Movement and show the people that Vermont is not a back number---**Cahee House Furnishings Co.**

BETTER ROADS FOR VERMONT, DO YOU WANT THEM?---Geo. E. Chalmers, Kodaks, Premos, Brownies, Books, Stationery and Pictures

WHY POOR ROADS---When with a United Effort the Better Roads Can be Substituted.---**Marsden Electric Company**

POOR ROADS ARE SHUNNED, Good Roads Are Sought--- **W.W. Ward & Son,** Plumbing & Heating

The Rutland News, February 28, 1919

**PUT RUTLAND OVER THE TOP! In Good Roads and Good Streets
By Voting for the Abutters' Law, Article 7,
Next Tuesday**

Give Rutland Good Streets---she will show you an increase in trade---this means more money left in our city---which reimburses the fellow that pays one-third of the street improvement in front of his property. Why, the public will pay for our street improvements if we give them a chance and it's the public that frequent the City with Good Streets and Shun the City with Poor Streets. Which Shall We Have? Valuation of all property is figured on a business basis. If we have a City well thought of and well patronized isn't your property worth more? Don't think of today only, think of the future years; you may wish to sell your property some day. A few dollars well invested in real estate very seldom fails to show a handsome profit. Why not start with our streets, the most important part of a City. Think this matter over, talk with people that know what our neighboring City of Glens Falls has accomplished by the Abutters' Law, Article 7, then tell your friends to help Rutland, next Tuesday by voting for the Abutters' Law, Article 7. You can't do more for Rutland and yourself than to vote for the Abutters' Law, Article 7.

If you were in Business, as the City of Rutland is today and the people of the City were willing to help by paying for one-third the expenses of the streets improvements would you not give them a chance to let them show you? That's what Rutland wants of the people. Vote for the Abutters' Law, Article 7 and

Rutland will show you results from growth that will surprise you. Every city that has adopted the Abutters' Law has met with this success. Rutland will be no exception. She has led in all past progressive moves; let her be an example now, that other Vermont cities will follow.

VOTE FOR THE ABUTTERS' LAW, ARTICLE 7, AND DO YOUR DUTY

Rutland is a leader, not a follower. Let's keep up our good record. This is a business proposition, coupled with our City pride. We consider both beyond reproach and well we may, but don't forget this when you vote on the Street matter next Tuesday.

BETTER RUTLAND IS WHAT WE WANT AND WE MUST ALL WORK FOR IT

THAT MEANS YOU!

Is history repeating itself-- or is it that some things never change!

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, March 13, 1918

PLAN TRAIL SOUTH FROM KILLINGTON

A meeting of the trustees of the Green Mountain Club was held at the Hotel Berwick in Rutland to formulate plans for the year. The Rutland members of the governing body include C. P. Cooper, George E. Chalmers and Willis M. Ross. It was expected that representatives would be present from Burlington, Bennington and several other towns. Reports indicate that the club will make the hills of Vermont more accessible to outdoor enthusiasts in spite of the many activities in which people are engaged because of the conflict in Europe.

The Rutland section plans within the next few months to undertake the extension of the trail south from Mount Killington, a project that has been discussed for some years. The mountain pathway to the northward of the favorite peak of Rutland people is now in good condition for travel with shelter houses at convenient points. It is expected that in a very few years sufficient work in the other direction will be done so that pedestrians who wish to do so may travel southward through the woods and connect with the trails built by the very active Bennington division.

No definite plans have been formulated as to the route to be taken in going south from Killington, but an itinerary taking in wood roads leading to the Bissell Mill in Shrewsbury, crossing the Rutland Railroad track somewhere near Cuttingsville, thence taking in Shrewsbury Pond, White Rocks in Wallingford and leading southward from this sightly spot is favored. Such a trail, following the ridge over-looking the Otter Creek Valley from the east would give opportunity for excellent outlooks. Some arrangement will be made for a shelter house between Rutland and Manchester, possibly at Shrewsbury Pond. Of course this will not all be accomplished in a single season.

March 14, 1918

APPROPRIATE \$150 TO BUILD TRAILS

At the annual meeting of the trustees of the Green Mountain Club held at the Hotel Berwick yesterday afternoon the following officers were elected: President, C.P. Cooper, Rutland; Vice president, Dr. L. J. Paris, Burlington; Treasurer, G.A. Maher, Bennington; Corresponding Secretary, T.S. Dean, Burlington, Clerk, George E. Chalmers, Rutland.

The trustees appropriated \$150 for work on trails and an equal amount for publicity. Plans were discussed for extension of the Long Trail and relocating of the trail from Mount Horrid in Rochester, north to Middlebury Gap. The appropriations included a sum to repair the Emily Proctor Lodge on the north side of Breadloaf Mountain and Battell Lodge on Lincoln Mountain.

The Bennington section reported the acquisition of a new camp for hikers on the Arlington Road.

Dr. Paris has presented the club a large map of Vermont on which the Long Trail with all side trails and convenient approaches are plainly indicated. This will be hung in the rooms of the Rutland Business Men's Association, which is the headquarters of the Green Mountain Club.

April 24, 1918

TO PLANT 50,000 TREES IN MENDON

The Board of Aldermen, with the cooperation of the Vermont Department of Forestry, is financing the planting of young trees on the water shed in Mendon in accordance with the vote of the board to spend \$1000 a year for reforestation. Last year the appropriation was not used so that \$2000 will be laid out this year. A. J. Eaton, representing the state department, was in Rutland and with Alderman D. J. Anthony, who, with Alderman P. H. Hogan and City Clerk H. B. Whittier, compose the forestry committee, went to Mendon.

Over 50,000 young trees are to be planted. The varieties include Norway pine, Norway spruce and Scotch pine. Some of these will go on the Geno farm, and the rest on other tracts which the city has bought in order to own the land that is drained by the streams which fill the reservoir.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, February 14, 1920

RUTLAND BAND IS 44 YEARS OLD

Organization Was Formed During Centennial Year ---Its Successful Career

Some interesting facts about the Rutland City Band have come to light in connection with the application for the appropriation from the grand list, to be put in the city warning.

The organization dates back to Centennial year, 1876. A group of business men purchased the instruments and for many years W. C. Landon was trustee for the company. The band has had an unbroken career through the 44 years which have followed. Among the other older citizens who were connected with its organization and early support, besides Mr. Landon, were Levi G. Kingsley and Gen. W.Y. W. Ripley.

There is still one member in the band, Edward Copps, who was connected with the group when it first furnished music for the city. [Edward Copps is #5 in the middle row of this photo taken of the band in 1906]

Several of the former members have attained national reputations as musicians, among them being Harry Styles, who was a regimental band master in the Philippines for the United States; Charles Styles, who was with the Sousa band for some years; Charles Bucklin, who has been a trombone soloist with prominent Boston bands; E.L. Hatch, who at present is conductor of the Salem, Mass., band and J. Harry Engels, who died in Rutland some years ago.

The band library has more than 500 standard or classical selections, the rag-time stuff not being listed.

In point of years the Rutland musicians believe that there is no other band in the state that has had so long a continued existence.

It is thought that with the forming of the battalion headquarters here, when the armory is erected, the Rutland City Band will naturally be chosen as the regimental band, which would give the organization prestige.

Many persons have expressed the belief that without the usual appropriation from the city this, one of the oldest organizations in the city and one that was

really founded by the men who helped to make Rutland a success, might be obliged to disband.



The Rutland City Band was photographed in Railroad Park in 1906.

Left to right (back row): Andrew Sanders, Henry Preville, Cornelius Collins, Andrew A. Catozzi, Charles Estabrook, Charles Bliss, William N. Skeeles.

Left to right (middle row): Albert Stickney, drum major, Adelbert Delong, Joseph[?] Piette from Burlington, Dominic Romano, Edward Copps, Ralph Crawford, Frank St. Louis from Fair Haven, Joseph Seff, John McDowell, Philip H. Brehmer, director.

Left to right (front row): Albert Burdick, Orris Ballou, Nathan Seff, Edward Jones, unidentified, Joseph C. Cox.

Left to right (seated on the ground): Charles Young, manager, and Frank A. Rielle. Raymond Hughes, who identified the people in this photo, was a member of the 1906 band but was absent on the day the photo was taken.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, August 21 1920

FARMER DRUG STORE CHANGED HANDS TODAY

Fred Beauchamp and Wm. A. O'Rourke Form Partnership and Buy Establishment

The drug store of F. E. D. Farmer & Co., located at the southwest corner of Merchants Row and West street and one of the oldest pharmacies in the city, changed ownership this afternoon. Frank B. Howard, who has had considerable interest in the establishment for about seven years, bought the interest of the F. E.D. Farmer estate and sold the entire business to Fred Beauchamp and William A. O'Rourke, well known Rutland young men, both of whom received the degree of Doctor of Pharmacy from the Massachusetts College of Pharmacy.

The new owners, who have already taken possession, will operate the store under the name Beauchamp & O'Rourke. They have had about 10 years' experience each in the drug business in Rutland and have worked in pharmacies elsewhere.

Mr. Beauchamp has been manager of the Farmer & Co. store for the last four years or since the death of Mr. Farmer. He graduated from the Massachusetts Institute in 1907 and passed the Vermont state Board examinations in 1912, making him a registered pharmacist and prescription compounder.

Mr. O'Rourke was in college with Mr. Beauchamp and received his degree at the same time. He, too, is registered under the Vermont State Board of Pharmacies. He was associated with the L. A. Miner drug store for 10 years and for the last five years was head clerk.

The young men will conduct a modern prescription business carrying the usual side-lines to be found in an up-to-date store.

The business, which now passes into new hands was founded by the late E.C. Lewis prior to 1878. Afterward the late Charles W. Ward, who had been a clerk for Mr. Lewis, took it over and on his death F.E. D. Farmer, who had been in partnership with E.G. McClallen, bought a part interest in the store, continuing until his death.

Rutland Daily Herald, August 25, 1959

Gov. Robert T. Stafford presents Lederle Meritorious Community Service Award to Fred Beauchamp (right) and William A. O'Rourke (left) as their store writes its one-millionth prescription. The award was given in recognition of their outstanding service to the community. [The award was established by Lederle Laboratories] The druggists have been in business for 40 years.

Also seen in the picture are Robert Beauchamp (3rd left), J. Angelo DiPalma (2nd left), James Whalen (far left), J. Robert Dupaw (front right), Ben Burney (back right), and K. R. VonFritzinger of Lederle Laboratories, (far right).

Now in May of 2009 [fifty years later] Beauchamp and O'Rourke Pharmacy can be found on Woodstock Ave. Fred's son, Pharmacist Robert Beauchamp and Bob's son Barry are in charge. You will find Bob with a wealth of memories and mementos that nourish his heart and soul in the detailed work of a pharmacist.

#516

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, October 15, 1920

TITLE SEARCHERS DIG UP RUTLAND HISTORY

Interesting Facts Disclosed In Tracing Back Ownership of Land Salvationists Bought

A blue print showing the proposed changes in the building on Grove Street which the Salvation Army has purchased, is displayed in the Wilson Clothing Company window. In connection with the purchase, the Salvation Army officers in New York required an exhaustive search of the land records, and this search, which has just been completed, has brought to light many facts about the early history of Rutland and an old legal question of interest to lawyers.

The land just purchased was part of a tract that Phineas Buell and wife deeded to William Jenkins in 1800. Captain Jenkins was a large land owner and at the time of his death, about 1820, he owned the land on the north side of the "road leading from the Court House to Castleton," now West Street, from a few rods west of Main Street, across East Creek and including a large part of Pine Hill. He also owned the mills at the Great Falls at Center Rutland.

At his death, half of his property was willed to his wife, and half to Ambrose L. Brown, and the "heirs of his body," and at the death of Captain Jenkins' wife, by her will, the estate went to Ambrose L. Brown. Under these wills Brown had an absolute ownership in half the property, but only a life interest in the other half, which after his death would go to his children.

Brown sold a large part of the property east of East Creek to the late Deacon James Barrett, and that part west of East Creek to Judge Robert Pierpoint. These purchasers, when they found out that a half interest in the property was entailed to the children of Ambrose L. Brown, undertook to get deeds from the children, but not succeeding in getting deeds from all, began a proceeding to make their title good, practiced centuries ago in England to bar entails. This is known as a common recovery and is a proceeding about which most of the present generation of lawyers know nothing. The purchasers had an outsider in this case, one William Page, bring suit in ejectment, against them to recover the land and in accordance with a previous understanding allowed William Page to get judgment by default for the possession of the land, and the sheriff put them in possession and afterwards, Page quitclaimed the property to Pierpoint and Barrett.

This was the ancient way of "barring an entail," in England, by suffering a common recovery, as it was called, but it was never law in America, and when the question came before the Supreme Court, it was held invalid to cure the title. The title was afterwards made good by proper deeds from the Brown heirs.

The property involved in these proceedings included what would now [1920] be worth hundreds of thousands of dollars. When James Barrett got his title straightened out, he divided the property into building lots, and practically all the land north of West Street can be traced back to deeds from him.

It is understood that the deeds of property purchased by the Salvation Army must finally be sent to England for approval.

Buying property today still involves investigating the deed possession, but it doesn't seem that it would be quite as complicated as it was early on.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, August 25, 1925

“STOP AND GO” SIGNAL AT CITY’S BUSIEST CORNER

Drivers of Vehicles Must Watch the Red and Green Signs

The traffic cop who stands at the intersection of West and Grove Streets is relieved of the necessity of exercising his arms in waving directions to automobiles through the installation of a “come and go” sign such as is commonly used in the larger cities. The device is a simple one, consisting of two arms, crossed at right angles. One is painted red and is inscribed with the words “stop” on either side, and the other is green and contains the word “go.” the signal is operated by a lever.

When a driver of any kind of a vehicle is confronted with a red sign he must stop until the officer gives him the “go” signal. When either West Street or Grove Street and its continuation along Merchants Row are open to traffic, vehicles going straight ahead need not give the officer at the post any signal and no signal is required when a car confronted by a “go” sign is going to turn to the right.

When Hand Signal Is Required

When a car facing the green sign is to be turned to the left in to another street, however, the driver must signal the traffic man by the means of the arm as there is then danger of meeting a car approaching from the opposite direction on the intersecting street and the officer must see that the way is clear.

The police stated today that the sign was working out well and they thought that as soon as the public understood it thoroughly it would greatly facilitate traffic work on Rutland’s busiest corner.

“We ask the people’s cooperation,” Chief of Police B.S. Hyland said.

Apparently now, in the year 2009, even though Rutland has abundant traffic lights throughout the city, Rutland has been found to have the worst intersection in Vermont. According to a TV news broadcast, the intersection of Merchants Row/ Center Street and Evelyn Street meets that criteria! Whatever happened that Rutland could out-worst the “five corners” at Essex Junction?

+ 518

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, November 29, 1921

THIS CITY WILL BUILD THE FIRST MILE OF "GATEWAY" HIGHWAY

Rutland to Construct Its Part Of Road Toward the West In 1922
In Spite of Shortage of State Funds

The City of Rutland will build its share of the "Gateway" highway to New York State next summer in spite of the fact that the State has no money to construct the connecting links between the Rutland town line and the New York State border at Fair Haven, Joseph P. Feeley, Commissioner of Public Works, stated this morning.

The city will endeavor to construct a mile of cement road similar to that built on Strongs Avenue and South Main Street the past season. Work will be started at the westerly city line near Evergreen Cemetery entrance at Center Rutland and the mile, if attained, will take the new road about as far east as where Columbian Avenue branches off of State Street.

As the street department employees are to do the work under the supervision of Mr. Feeley, instead of letting a contract for the job, it is expected that some money will be saved and that a longer stretch of road can be made than under different conditions.

The cost of the 1921 cement road was about \$41,000 a mile. It is not unlikely that labor and materials will be cheaper in 1922 than during the past summer and fall so it is thought that the money can be made to go further for this reason. Fifty thousand dollars in road bonds has been voted by citizens for permanent highways in 1922. This is the money that is to be utilized for the West Street-Colombian Avenue road.

The City of Rutland will probably have the name of having built the first mile of the much-needed highway that will furnish a gateway between this city and northern New York towns. Presently the traffic over this stretch of country is curtailed by poor roads. It is figured that an up-to-date road over the 20-mile stretch would enlarge Rutland's possibilities as a trading center.

According to Gov. James Hartness and State Highway Commissioner Thurman W. Dix, there are not State funds available for building the proposed Rutland-Fair Haven highway at present and it is not likely that the road will be constructed before 1923, unless the towns along the proposed

route to New York State see fit to appropriate sufficient money to match the government fund to which Vermont is entitled for the purpose. This is not likely. Rutland County has had its share of State funds for the present, it is explained.

My Goodness, does this sound familiar?

#519

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, December 8, 1921

PIED PIPER NEEDED IN RUTLAND TO RID CITY OF HORDE OF RATS

DRIVEN FROM DUMP BY COLD, RODENTS OVERRUN HOUSES ON LOWER RIVER STREET--CITY AUTHORITIES ARE APPEALED TO

This city is in need of a Pied Piper. Grand Juror John S. Dorsey has been asked to rid lower River Street residences and out buildings of a rat pest and he believes that the request is, without exception, the most unusual that was ever made of a prosecuting officer in this city.

After poring over the statute books, Mr. Dorsey can find no act providing a way for a prosecuting officer to take action against rodents, no matter whether they are guilty of entering the domiciles of man without leave, whether they disturb the public peace or whether they endanger the health of a community, so he has appealed to the police department for a solution of the problem. Equally puzzled, the officers have "passed the buck" to the health department, arguing that rats are vermin that are claimed to be one of the worst carriers of disease germs known to science.

The primary cause of all the trouble is a dumping ground situated on the north side of River Street, west of Meadow. All kinds of refuse has been put in this place for two or three years in an effort to bring the level of a certain field up to that of adjoining property. The deposits included some material that provided food for the rats and they have multiplied until, residents of the vicinity say, they must have equaled the horde that the Pied Piper drew from Hamelin. There are rats of all sizes, little fellows which came to the world the past summer, middle sized ones and rats of huge size which are fierce in appearance and are not afraid to face a tom cat or the best terrier that can be found.

December 10, 1921

The Pied Piper for which The News advertised a few nights ago has arrived in the shape of S.J. Kidd of Norfolk, VA, who will start a rat extermination campaign in this city, beginning next Tuesday. At the present time, Mr. Kidd is doing the Pied Piper act in Troy, N.Y. and when the battle has been won there, he will come to Rutland. His headquarters will be in the rooms of the Chamber of Commerce.

Weather permitting, the city dumps and other places where rats are congregated in large numbers will be baited Tuesday night with barium carbonate, a ton of which powerful poison will soon be shipped to the city. The poison, while peculiarly powerful in the killing of rats, is not dangerous to other animals and offers no danger to human beings. The effect on the system is nauseating and rats, unlike other animals, cannot vomit. Mr. Kidd and his assistants will spend two or three days organizing an educational campaign to obtain the cooperation of merchants and householders in the drive against the disease carrying animals.

Merchants in the downtown section of the city will be the first to be approached by Mr. Kidd and his corps as it is wished to tackle the hardest part of the campaign first. Mr. Kidd will visit the schools of the city and speak to the children on the dangers that may come from rats and tell them of the necessity for the preservation of health in the home.

It was intended that the city dumps would be baited first, but the severe cold snap has made that impracticable for the present. When the thermometer hovers around zero, according to Mr. Kidd, rats hunt out some building where they can be more comfortable. If the weather does not get considerably warmer during the stay of Mr. Kidd in Rutland, enough of the poison will be left in the city so that the health authorities may attend to the dumps when the rats begin again to infest them. Mr. Kidd will carry on his campaign extensively among the dwelling houses of Rutland, if such services are presently desired.

#520

Tidbits From Then and Now

Actually Tidbits From Then and Now #520! That's 10 years of looking through old papers and connecting events from them to today's events. I give thanks to Morris Tucker who spends hours reading the old newspapers at the Society and finding articles to share for "Tidbits". When I was doing it myself, it took a great deal of time because everything in "old news" was so interesting.

I would like to share some articles as examples of how interesting it can be.

The Rutland News, August 24, 1920

AUTOMOBILE RUNS ON RAILROAD TRACKS

D& H Officials Fit Up Peerless Car As Passenger Coach

A Peerless automobile, running smoothly along the railroad tracks, was the unusual sight witnessed by persons at the Rutland Depot at 11 o'clock this morning. The car, which belongs to officials of the Delaware & Hudson Railroad Company, started from Wilkes-Barre PA a few days ago and has gone as far north as Rouses Point NY on a tour of inspection.

The automobile wheels have been removed and the wheels of passenger coaches put on instead. The car goes under it's own power. The steering gear is locked and to all outward appearances, the machine makes its journey along the track, as would any locomotive.

It carries signal flags in front, as do locomotives and over the radiator is a bell similar to those on engines except that it is considerably smaller, for use at crossings, etc. The bell is pulled by a cord in easy reach of the front seat.

The passengers claim that the machine rides very easily but among the onlookers there were some who were so skeptical as to say that they would prefer a regular passenger coach.

The Rutland News, February 28, 1917

FIND OLD RECORD BOOK

Doings of Rutland Fire Society Organized in 1829 Chronicled in Volume Discovered in Court House Attic.

During the process of house cleaning County Clerk George N. Harman came into possession of an old book in the attic at the courthouse. The book is a "Record of the

Rutland Fire Society Which Was Organized in 1829.” It is of interest because it contains the original signatures of many of Rutland’s best known citizens who were young men during the early part of the last century. Solomon Foot, John B. Page, Evelyn Pierpoint and many others were members of the fire fighting squad. The book found its way to the courthouse because F. W. Hopkins, secretary of the society, was also County Clerk.

The entries in the book ceased in 1847. One of the last entries shows that W. F. Gookin, Harvey Royce and G. A. Dyer were fined 25 cents for not attending a meeting.

The Rutland News, October 15, 1916

CITY NEWS

There were two additions made to the squirrel home at the fire station on Center Street today. The pets were brought from Fair Haven and are supposed to be very tame. They, however, are not especially pleased with their change and so are being kept in the squirrel house. The only occupant of the home prior to the arrival of the guests is sulking in the treetops and refuses to be fed or comforted. He killed a previous companion.

Why is this article so interesting, you ask? It is well known that the fire station on Center Street was the Nickwackett Fire Station. Nickwackett is an Indian word meaning “home of the squirrel”. This bit of information about the guest squirrels came as a surprise to the mascot of the Rutland Historical Society, known locally as “Nickwackett Nick,” the “big squirrel” that loves to take part in parades.

The Rutland News, December 20, 1920

CENTER STREET LANDMARK REMOVED FOR SAFETY’S SAKE

A mammoth elm tree standing in front of the fire station at the corner of Center and Nickwackett Streets, and which was one of the landmarks of Center Street, is now reduced to a high stub. Commissioner of Public Safety F. C. Roberts and others considered that the giant trunk had reached a state of decay where it was liable to fall during one of the winter storms so the firemen cut off the upper part yesterday. The tree had divided into three huge branches 20 feet above the ground and these were fastened with iron braces many years ago to prevent them from splitting apart.

This, of course must have been the location of the “squirrel house” where Nickwackett Nick’s ancestors lived in 1916!

Just thought you might like an example of why it takes a great deal of time scanning old newspapers for articles--and not being able to share all of them.

#521

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, April 12, 1919

STREETS WERE PROBLEM WAY BACK IN 1852

Old Petition Shows That Abutters Paid for Improvements in Those Days

In view of the recent agitation for the acceptance of an abutter law covering street improvements an old petition which has just been discovered, indicating that highway construction was a problem in Rutland as long as 67 years ago, is of a good deal of interest. Present residents argue that Washington Street is by no means what so important a thoroughfare should be in a city like Rutland and it is pointed out that if a substantial sum had been laid out on it at one time instead of spending the money in dribbles year after year, as the petition would indicate was done, the street might have a permanent pavement.

The petition, which is dated September 15, 1852, follows:

"We, the subscribers, agree to pay the sums affixed to each of our names for the purpose of grading Washington Street, or if the expense shall not be as much as the amount subscribed, then we will pay in that proportion:

George W. Strong, \$50; Bardwell & Cooke, \$20; E.V.N, Harwood, \$10; J. Barrett, \$20; J.T. Page, \$30; J.W. Putnam, \$15; Ira C. Foster, \$20; Amos L. Story, \$15; Joseph Pratt, \$25."

The Rutland News, November 1, 1919

ASKS FOR STREET THROUGH ESTATE OF H.H. BAXTER

Owner Would Give City Land In Order to Market Building Lots

A part of the H. H. Baxter estate in the northern part of this city, in which Grove Hall, which is now occupied by the family of Hugh H. Baxter of New Rochelle, N.Y., the owner, is located, may be cut up in building lots and sold. Mr. Baxter has made a proposition to the city agreeing to give the municipality a strip running east and west through the north end of the tract provided the board of street commissioners lay out a street which would give access to about 15 or 18 building lots on the north side of the proposed thoroughfare. Mr. Baxter would place these lots on the market.

No formal application for the street has yet been made to the commission, which consists of D.J. Anthony as president of the board of aldermen, and Donald Snyder as commissioner of public works and superintendent of streets. The matter has been talked over, however, and no objections have appeared. The commission has power to act in the matter.

If the street were made it would be of normal width and would extend from Church Street, at a point not far from the north gate on the Baxter estate, to a place on Grove Street nearly opposite the house of H. A. Harman, passing back of the Baxter barns. There would be no building lots on the south side of the proposed street, this property remaining as part of the estate.

The land, which it is proposed to develop for residential purposes, has been utilized for growing hay heretofore.

January 26, 1920

STREET FORMALLY ACCEPTED

The board of highway commissioners have formally accepted the street, which is to be laid out through the H. H. Baxter estate in the northern part of this city. The street runs from Church Street to Grove Street. It will serve as a connecting link between Park and Kingsley Avenues but will not be exactly in a straight line between them as such a street, it is explained by the city authorities, would make too great a variance in the size and shape of the building lots on the north side of the highway, and within the Baxter estate, which it is proposed to sell. The work on building the street will commence early in the spring.

And so was born Seabury Street!

522

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News
September 13, 1922

EXPLAINS NEED OF MAIL BOXES

Postmaster West Urges Local Citizens to Install Some Mail Receptacles

Postmaster Charles H. West is sending out the following notice to Rutland citizens relative to private mail receptacles.

"The Postoffice Department invites your attention to the benefits to be derived from the use of private mail receptacles. Such receptacles, in the form of a box or a slot in the door, obviate the necessity of patrons responding to the carrier's call at inconvenient moments, permit the safe delivery of mail at all times, and contribute materially to the efficiency of the service. When not compelled to await a response to his ring, the carrier is enabled to cover his route more expeditiously and make prompter deliveries, especially to those residing near the end of his route. With a safe place in which to deposit the mail at all times the carrier is enabled to reduce to a minimum the amount of mail returned to the office because of the temporary absence of patrons or failure to get prompt response to his ring.

Your prompt attention to this matter will result in improved service to your entire community and be appreciated by the Department."

Mr. West said this morning that in the 13 different routes in Rutland over 700 homes are without mail receptacles that make extra work for the carriers and often times means that mail is blown away and lost.

Now, if there is no receptacle the mail is returned to the sender!

The Rutland News, September 6, 1922

SHOW STUDENTS PLAN TO SAVE

Automatic Receiving Teller Machines To Be Placed in Schools

With the approval of the school commissioners, the superintendent of the public schools, the superintendent of the parochial schools and teachers in Rutland, the Rutland Savings Bank will next week install an automatic

receiving teller machine in the hall of every school building in the city whereby the scholars in the city may begin a systematic savings.

The students may deposit in these machines coins of 1 cent, 5 cents, 10 cents and 25 cents. As the coins are deposited, a stamp of equal value is received. These stamps are to be affixed to a folder furnished by the bank and the folder is to be taken to the Rutland Savings Bank and a regular deposit book will be issued and the dollar placed on interest.

The success of this new system will depend largely on the parents and teachers as well as the children in the schools. The money in the machines will be collected daily by a bank representative.

It is understood that many city banks have carried out this system and that one Boston bank has, at the present time, over 50 machines in use.

September 19, 1922

RUTLAND STUDENTS SHOW TENDENCY TO SAVE MONEY

The Rutland Savings Bank this week installed several of the new savings slot machines in the various schools in the city and at one of the schools the machine was filled with coins within one-half hour after it was placed in the building.

W.W. Fairchild, superintendent of schools, restated this morning that the success of the school savings depends largely on three factors, the parents, the teachers and the scholars and that parents should realize the importance of savings and the benefits derived in times of need, from a fund carefully set aside, a little at a time.

The teachers have been asked by the superintendent to encourage the efforts of the bank to aid pupils in the art of thrift that is equal in importance to much of the knowledge gained from text books.

Ever wonder where the addiction to slot machines and gambling came from? Well, now we know. We can blame the education department!

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, June 11, 1921

RUTLAND MILITARY CENTER OF STATE

Headquarters Company Well Underway and Regimental Band is Probability

SPECIALISTS WANTED

Maj. L. F. Wing Desirous of Securing 43 Men by First of July

With the completion of the new armory in this city, great interest has been taken by Rutland County men in the various military organizations with headquarters in Rutland, Company A, of the Vermont National Guard now has a quota of about 87 men, with officers, and the medical detachment has a fair sized enlistment.

Major Leonard F. Wing is now organizing a Battalion Headquarters Company that will have its base in Rutland. This organization consists of many specialists and appeals to ex-service men because of its opportunities and many chances for advancement. Major Wing is desirous of having the company organized with its full quota of 42 men and officers by July 1.

The Headquarters Company has the following personnel. One major, one adjutant, one sergeant-major, one acting first sergeant, a chief observer and scout, a mess and supply sergeant, a signal electrician sergeant, five corporals including construction, observer, operator, and scouts, specialists including a barber, cobbler, line guards, messengers, motorcycle dispatch riders, observers, operators (radio and wire), scouts, tailor and others. The total of enlisted men is 31.

The outfit is also equipped with eight riding horses, a bicycle, a motorcycle, 43 pistols and 21 rifles.

Ten four-wheel-drive trucks are expected to arrive today from the U. S. Government for the use of the First Vermont Regiment. They will be kept at the House of Correction where there are now kept for storage 18 motorcycles, two baggage trailers, two kitchen trailers and seven water tank trailers.

Major Wing would like to get in touch with any ex-service men or young men who are desirous of "joining up" as he expects to send about 20 officers and non-commissioned officers to Camp Devens on June 20 for five days instruction at the preliminary school of instruction for officers.

The annual Federal encampment will be held at Camp Devens from August 6 to August 21 and all of the members of Headquarters Company are permitted to attend this annual mobilization event.

Ex-service men are privileged to enlist for one or three years in the National Guard. Many have already expressed their willingness to join while several have already passed the examinations and been admitted.

With the completion of Headquarters Company, Rutland will be practically the military center of the state. A movement has been started to organize a regimental band in this county, with headquarters in Rutland.

Any young man residing in Rutland County is eligible to join Headquarters Company, providing he will be able to attend drills once a week. The facilities of the new armory with its lockers, showers, rifle range and large hall, make the military organization one of the best equipped social organizations in the city.

The specialists and non-commissioned officers in Headquarters Company, receive good salaries from the state and government. During mobilization at Devens, the soldiers receive both state and federal pay.

Another Rutland first!

#524

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, February 28, 1917

HOUSE OF CORRECTION TO SELL GARDEN TRUCK

Practice of Selling Large Quantities of Produce to General Public to Be Resumed

The House of Correction is to supply fresh vegetables to the public again the coming summer. Formerly the greenhouse and garden was put to some use commercially and in certain years over \$2,000 profit was realized, but lately nearly all of the produce has been used on the table of the institution. The prisoners will continue to receive plenty of fresh vegetables, but the horticultural department will be conducted on a larger scale in 1917 than has been the case lately and John F. Smith, the institution's gardening expert, is already preparing to do a market gardening business on a large scale.

Although the heat was turned on in the greenhouse only a week ago and the first seed was sown since that time, hundreds of thousands of embryonic plants are already raising their heads well above the soil. Conspicuous among these are 8000 radish plants and nearly as many lettuce seedlings. These have been taken from the seed boxes and set in the beds of "sanitary" soil where they now hold their heads more than an inch above the dirt.

This sanitary soil is no joke, for Gardener Smith guards the baby plants as zealously as a human baby is cared for. The soil is baked in a very hot oven before the seeds are put in. This destroys all worms, weed seed and germs that might be injurious to the growth of the vegetables. The seedlings now, well underway, are by no means all radishes and lettuce. There are celery plants, tomatoes, peppers, cabbages and many other popular varieties.

The House of Correction garden takes up about 12 acres of ground. There is as much more land under cultivation for fodder corn to furnish feed for the herd of nine cattle and about one acre is devoted to early potatoes for the inmates. The main crop of potatoes is not raised on the prison grounds as the soil is not adapted to this crop.

Explaining this Mr. Smith said: "On one acre I can raise tomatoes enough to buy the potato crop of several acres."

Talk about organic gardening! Is there enough room on the prison grounds to grow vegetables for the inmates today? During World War I and II and during the Depression, family gardens were a great way to save. Seems like gardening is undergoing a comeback!

#325

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, April 20, 1922

BARBER SHOP FOR CHILDREN PLANNED

Many Improvements And Changes Being Made In Sterns' Store

Rutland is soon to have one of the largest and most up-to-date dry goods stores in the State of Vermont when the present plans are completed by the Charles Sterns Company who are making many modern improvements in their store with the purpose of tendering better service to their customers in Rutland and surrounding towns.

It is now expected that the plans, which are underway, will be completed sometime between May first and June 15, in so far as the second floor is concerned. On this floor there will be a complete department devoted exclusively to infant's and children's apparel. This room is to be 25X80 feet and will be equipped with a modern kiddie's barbershop with a trained children's barber in charge. It will be modern in every respect.

There will also be a rest room on the second floor that will be equipped with every convenience where women of Rutland and surrounding towns can spend their leisure time or use it as a meeting place. This room is to be equipped with a telephone, writing desk and stationery as well as magazines and reading matter.

The millinery department will be enlarged greatly, newly equipped and moved to a new location in the front part of the store.

These new improvements have been made possible by the addition of the Root block at No. 19 Merchants Row that adjoins the present store.

When the work and plans are completed the Charles Sterns Company will occupy three entire floors and basement at 19, 21 and 23 Merchant Row.

The Rutland News, July 20 1923

"NICK" FLORY SHAVES---WELL, READ THIS ONE

When "Nick" Flory, Bardwell barber shop proprietor, looked closely at the features of the man he was shaving late yesterday afternoon he thought he saw something familiar in the features. Because of the growing suspicion that his client was the

distinguished person he suspected, Nick handed out the best he has in shaves and as he removed the last towel he asked:

“Haven’t I the honor to be shaving the Vice President of the United States?”

“If that’s what you call it, you have,” replied Calvin Coolidge.

The Vice President and Mrs. Coolidge have been visiting the former’s father in Plymouth and last evening dined with ex-Governor Clement.

The Rutland News, July 27, 1923

THE JOKE IS ON -----WHO?

President Bill Shangraw, just prior to the annual dinner of the Rutland Exchange Club, received a telegram the partial text of which is now made public for the first time. Regarding instructions for the dinner. The telegram ended “***in formal dress.”

The formality of the occasion came as a complete surprise and several members, it is reliably reported, paid clothiers here \$1 a night after a mad scramble to get hands on all rentable duke suits in the village.

Finally every member showed up with some sort of a dress suit on: either from Brother Wilson’s larder, or one belonging to grandfather, or in some instances, one’s own.

It was the hottest night of the year and the dinning room was stuffy--exceedingly stuffy. Finally the celebrity arrived--in knickers.

He surveyed his assembled hosts, their wilted collars, finger-marked shirt-fronts and scowling countenances.

Then he told them the actual text of the message as he dictated it. It was:
“***INFORMAL DRESS.”

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, June 2, 1923

CITY SWIMMERS TAKE TO WATER

Patch Dam Is Most Popular Pool In This Locality, But Other Sports Lure Many

Swimming is again coming into it own as the most popular summer sport for Rutland youngsters. This morning on the banks of the Patch Dam, about a mile north of the city, could be seen many Rutland boys attired in bathing suits ready to take a plunge into the river.

Decoration Day [Memorial Day] was the earliest any of the boys at the river today had been swimming, but several Rutland swimmers took advantage of the warm spell early in May to have their first dip of the season.

Patch Dam Pool Popular

The Patch Dam affords Rutland youngsters one of the finest swimming pools to be found in this vicinity. For many years this spot has been "the old swimmin' hole" for Rutland young men. Prior to the building of the Patch Dam, just east of '76 Bridge, the swimming hole there was known as "Devil's Camp." "Yellow Bank," on East Creek in the vicinity of Cleveland Avenue, is another popular spot for swimming, especially for those just learning.

There are several places on Otter Creek such as "The Bend," "Big Baxter's" and Billings Bridge. The Billings Bridge swimming pool is especially popular with young women.

The Rutland News, July 31, 1920

PAPAS AND MAMAS TRY PLAYGROUND SLIDES

Grown-ups Play at Small Children's Pranks Under Cover of Darkness

"Enjoy life while you are young" appears to be the saying paramount in the minds of those who dwell on the eastern slope of the city. "Never too old to learn," seems to be the somewhat apt expression displayed by the sightseers who last evening watched the new playground apparatus at the Dana school grounds as it was put into action.

The entire equipment on this ground has been installed. The 30-foot slide, the most popular bit of sport on the field, was in constant use from early yesterday morning to 9 o'clock in the evening. Even after the dusk had settled, the fathers and mothers of the children, wandered over to the ground and under cover of the darkness took a few "slides" to see that the apparatus was working as it should.

Old and young have made use of the equipment which consists of the slide, a great stride, a merry-go-round and six swings. The equipment is now complete in the Dana Community.

Similar apparatus is now being installed on the School Street grounds and should be completed early next week.

The Rutland News, July 24 1923

CITY STUDYING PINE HILL PROJECT

Engineers from the Public Works Department are making a survey of the Pierpoint tract of 200 acres on Pine Hill given to the City about three years ago by former Mayor Henry O. Carpenter to be used as a park.

The aldermen last year appropriated \$2,000 to beautify the place and the City may change at least part of the site into a park late this year or early next year.

On the site are pine trees, maples, cedars and poplars. Near to the park are Muddy and Rocky Ponds that would provide fishing and skating.

At the northeast end of the tract the City has a stone quarry in operation from which thousands of tons of stone at a value of several thousand dollars have been quarried. All of the stone used by the city in its permanent road building comes from the quarry.

Now we have White's Pool; a beautiful "hiking" area on Pine Hill and the parents can now go to the several scattered playgrounds around the city if they feel like checking out the safety of the equipment on hand, after dark.

After Ten years of ^{old newspaper article} reaching with the help of Morris Tucker and as the 2009 Summer hopefully gets into full swing I want to say goodbye and take the time to enjoy the simple things in life.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, August 4, 1923

WOLK AND FRANK BUY BIG BLOCK

Building Known As Buxton Block Passes to Merchants in Large Transaction

S. C. Buxton of Middletown Springs has sold the brick block at 10 and 12 Merchants Row to Samuel Frank and Hyman Wolk

There are two stores on the ground floor, one occupied by Michael's fruit and ice cream parlor. The second floor is occupied by the Peter Allard Barber Shop; Attorney W. H. Botsford's law office, and by the Odd Fellows Society. This society occupies the third floor as a lodge room. It is one of the largest business transactions that has taken place in Rutland for the past six months.

The Rutland News, August 15, 1923

FEELEY TO BUILD CITY HALL ANNEX

[Joseph P. Feeley, was the Commissioner of Public Works in 1923].

Plans have been completed by the Public Works Department for the erection of a cement and brick building adjoining the City Hall. The building will be used as a garage, storeroom and repair shop for the various activities connected with the City. It will be erected just south of the present building. The estimated cost calls for the expenditure of several thousand dollars. The work, in its entirety, will be done by the Public Works Department and it is probable that work will be started in the early part of September.

[Insert from October 13, 1923: Work has been started by the Public Works Department on the building of the new addition to the City Hall. The building will be constructed of cement and steel and will have a brick frontage on Merchants Row. The estimated cost of the building is about \$15,000 and the work will be done entirely by the Public Works Department. The building will join the south wall of the present City Hall occupied by the fire station and will be used as a repair shop and a garage for the City.]

The Public Works Department will complete the cement sidewalk building for the present year tonight when the walk on the East side of Grove Street from State to Williams Street will be finished. The reason for building no more walks is the lack of funds as the sidewalk appropriation is all used up. The Department will build

some walks in certain sections of the City where the property owner will pay for the entire work.

The Rutland News, August 24, 1923

WORK RAPIDLY PROGRESSES ON MARBLE BANK BUILDING

The concrete wall at the new Savings Bank Building being erected at the northwest corner of Merchants Row and West Street has been nearly finished. Representatives of the Fenna Construction Company of Syracuse, N.Y. that has the contract for building the bank, report some real tough digging.

Many thousand brick have arrived and already the bricklayers have started to work. The contracting company expects to get a good portion of the brickwork completed before the cold weather sets in and they plan to work on the job all winter at the interior work.

It would seem that Rutland was in a postwar period of growth in the summer of 1923.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, September 2, 1922

RESTAURANT TO OPEN MONDAY

Chinese Dining Rooms Have Been Equipped in Most Modern Style

Rutland's new Chinese restaurant on the second floor of the Finn and Lalor Block on Center Street will open for business Monday morning.

The work of remodeling and decorating the restaurant, which has been underway for the past six weeks under the supervision of Lewis N. Geno of Maple Street, contractor, was practically completed this morning. It is probably one of the most attractive and modern restaurants in Vermont.

The interior that has a seating capacity of 150 has been finished off in old rose with mahogany panes. A new steel ceiling has been installed and the entrance to the new establishment has been made much wider, the stairway being made of white marble, furnished by the Manchester Marble Company.

At the lower end of the restaurant nine private dining rooms have been made, each to accommodate six patrons. Old rose electrical fixtures add greatly to the setting.

A modern fire escape has been placed at the rear of the second floor. A modern Chinese range, where American as well as Chinese cooking will be done, has been installed. Several Chinese assistants who have had extensive experience in this line of work will do the cooking.

W. L. Toy, proprietor of the restaurant is a man of wide experience in this business, at the present time having several places of business in his charge. One is located at Burlington and others at Bangor and Portland Me.

Mr. Toy has installed a four-refrigerator ammonia plant and in addition to the kitchen help he will have several local young women in charge of the dining room.

The new place of business will be decorated for the opening day with cut flowers, ferns and Chinese decorations and an orchestra will furnish music. A player piano will be installed within a few days.

Seems that in the summer of 1922 Rutland was really thriving!

#529
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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, December 22, 1923

OLD RUTLAND IS NOW ON VIEW

Sewer Diggers Bare Boulders Used to Fill in Center St., Which Once Was Swamp

Workmen employed by the public works department in digging for a sewer on Center Street, which is to connect with the trunk line sewer on Merchants Row, today had a view of old Rutland---about seven and a half feet below level ground.

According to old Rutland residents, when Center Street was laid out about 60 years ago, from the foot of the hill down through to the depot was a deep swamp and at one time there was trout fishing in a stream which ran through the center of the city.

Street Built of Boulders

The street was built of boulders blasted out of a solid ledge of rocks extending from the U.S. Courthouse [now the library] down to the Anthony store. This rock was drawn on sleds and stone boats by oxen, and after a number of years of hard labor the street was filled in to its present elevation.

Before the street was filled in people traveled the thoroughfare on a sidewalk that was from eight to ten feet high, with an iron railing for protection. In order to enter a front door it was necessary to descend a steep flight of stairs.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, August 26, 1921

MAP OF RUTLAND, 1869, IS GIVEN LIBRARY

Shows Location of All Houses and Business Places 52 Years Ago

Many Surprising Changes

From the Aiken Estate the Rutland Free Library has received an old map of Rutland and a copy from a drawing of the city, made while the artist was on the hill just west of Dorr Bridge, that are interesting a good many callers at the library.

The map gives the plan of the city in detail as it was in 1869. It was published by Beers, Ellis & Soule, 95 Maiden Lane, New York. While the names of a number of the streets have been changed and new ones have been developed since the drawing was made, the plan gives a good idea as to how Rutland was laid out 52 years ago.

Every house that stood in the village at that time is noted on the map and the name of the occupant is given. All public buildings and business places are located. At the bottom of the map there are to be found photographs of the Congregational Church, St. Peter's Church, the Rutland High School and the Federal Building as they looked in 1869.

Clifford Giffin, Volunteer at the Rutland Historical Society, August 4, 2009

BEERS MAP OF RUTLAND, 1884, DIGITIZED TO CD

Preserving snippets of Rutland's past for enjoyment, study, and education has always been a significant activity of the all-volunteer Rutland Historical Society. Recently preservation of the information from a Beers 1884 Rutland Town map became the focus of a group of their volunteers.

The unrolled five foot square map, yellow from age, cracked in its seams, and separated from its backing in places, was stretched out over two long tables at the Society's Center Street building. With its demise looming, volunteers discussed various ways of preserving the information.

The year 1884, just prior to the breakup of the old town of Rutland, made this information invaluable for anyone interested in studying the area during this period. The map could not be found among the many maps now available on the Internet or those that have been scanned.

After photographing proved impractical it was decided that scanning the map would be possible. Estimates for having it scanned professionally proved to be quite expensive for a single item of the Society's collections. Its size and fragile nature also made scanning it as a single piece quite impractical.

Volunteers capable and resourceful came to the rescue. One volunteer owned a small portable see-through scanner that allowed pieces of the map to be scanned by placing the small scanner on top of the map. The large map was thus scanned in 53 scans. An overview of the town required only a single scan. A list of Rutland businesses was done in four scans. Center Rutland was scanned with seven scans, while West Rutland required five scans. Rutland Village [soon to be city], the largest single area, was scanned in four quarters, each quarter containing nine scans. A special combination of scans created a Downtown image. After the scans were completed, another volunteer spent many hours to "stitch" the scans together to make nine separate sections. Each section is readable on a computer screen. With more hours of work, another volunteer arranged the digitized sections onto a CD disk in PDF files. Each section can be selected from an index. Images can be increased to at least 300% of the original size that brings details into easy viewing.

Now, street names, occupants or owners of buildings, water and sewer pipe line locations, railroads, and much more information has not only been preserved, but made easily available for anyone with a computer and interested in the history of the old Town of Rutland in 1884.

Meanwhile the old map has been rolled up once more and placed in storage. The information is now available for visitors to view on the Society's computer at 96Center Street during visiting hours. It is also available on a CD disk for \$10.00 postage free, at the Society or by calling the Society at 802-775-2006.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The *Tidbits From Then and Now* article in the July 15, 2009 *Sam's Good News* had the wrong caption. The article included mention of a barbershop for children, and the heading was from the previous week's article about a garden truck. Sometimes mistakes can be a good thing. As it turns out, in the meantime, a more specific article was found about the children's barbershop that will appear this week.

The Rutland News, May 18, 1922

KIDDIES' BARBER SHOP TO BE OPENED IN STORE

Sterns' Company Is First In Rutland to Try Out This Scheme

Saturday will be the opening day of the new Kiddie's Barber Shop in the new children's department at the Charles Sterns' Company store. The shop is to be in charge of J. Garron of Proctor, who, for the last two years has been in charge of the Kiddies' Barber Shop in the Jordan Marsh Company store in Boston.

The barbershop is equipped with two Koch chairs, one for the little tots and another for older children. The walls in the room will be decorated with pictures and stories. Adjoining the barbershop a new department has been installed featuring children's novelties.

In the new department, there is also a ladies' rest room that is spacious, airy and comfortable, with wash room attached. The rest room, which has not been quite completed, will be furnished complete with writing desks in which writing material for the free use of patrons may be had.

The millinery department has been given more room by the addition of the new department and in this department two new "try-on rooms" have been fitted out as well as two especially designed triplicate mirrors.

The new department has been made possible by the addition of the entire block of 19 Merchants Row which gives the Charles Sterns & Company at the present time premises known as 19, 21 and 23 Merchants Row.

The Rutland News, May 25, 1923

COUNCIL CHANGES NAME OF STREET

Grove Street, Between West and State Streets, Is Now Merchants Row.

Under a recent act of the Board of Aldermen, Grove Street from West to State Streets is no more. The name has been changed to Merchants Row and when the repairs have been completed the numbers of the stores on Merchants Row will begin at the corner of State Street.

The street work on Merchants Row is progressing rapidly. Commissioner Feeley has completed the laying of the curb on the east side of the street and is now at work pouring cement for the curb on the west side.

The Rutland Railway, Light & Power Company is repairing the road between the tracks and laying new ties.

Under the new address changes in 1923 the Charles Sterns' Company address is listed in the 70s. In the 1950s the Charles Sterns' Company moved to 14 Merchants Row, which would place them just below State Street. Does anyone know how long the Children's Barber Shop lasted? Did the Children's Barber Shop move with the store?

Rutland Weekly Herald June 24, 1909

OFFICERS SEARCH FOR LIQUOR

Contributed by Fred Remington – Rutland Historical Society

Raid on the Dew Drop Inn

Two raids in search of liquor were made last evening by the sheriff's department in conjunction with the police department. State's Attorney Joseph C. Jones made out the warrants. Deputy Sheriff Pascal Ricci of the city and A.A. Leonard of Wallingford, together with Chief of Police T.C. Elworth and policemen C.F. Loretto, P.H. Conlon and John Worten started out about 7:45 pm and were busy until nearly 10:00 pm.

The first place visited was the Dew Drop Inn on Center Street, conducted by Arthur Bacon. Here the officers took several bottles of so called "2 per cent" beer and placed them in the Rutland County courthouse. The samples that were taken will be sent to the State Laboratory of Hygiene at Burlington for analysis.

The officers then made a line for E.J. Walsh's place on Strongs Avenue. Here they forced the door and made an exhaustive search on the premises for nearly two hours. Everything in the store was carefully examined but no liquor was found. A large number of "empties" were found and it was ascertained that Mr. Walsh has been purchasing them from boys who have picked up the "dead soldiers" on the street.

The officers after making a careful search came to the conclusion that there was "stuff" in the safe and this was taken to the city lockup requiring the efforts of six strong men and one of the baggage trucks from the Hotel Bardwell.

A crowd of about 200 people watched the work of the officers on Center Street while on Strongs Avenue there was a crowd numbering fully 500 people in automobiles, carriages and on the sidewalks. At first the crowd gathered close around Walsh's place but they were driven back to the sidewalk on the opposite side of the street. As usual, the sympathy of the crowd was not with the officers for when the safe was wheeled out to the baggage truck, upon which it was loaded, the crowd jeered and laughed

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, September 6, 1922

ARLINE SHATTUCK NEAREST TO PERFECT BABY

Little Chester Girl Wins Honors in Better Babies Contest at Fair

OVER 125 BABIES WERE JUDGED BY PHYSICIANS

Prize Winners in All Classes Are Announced This Morning By Judges

Little Arline Shattuck of Chester was selected by physicians in charge of the Better Babies Contest to be more nearly a 100 per cent baby than any of the 128 babies entered in the Better Babies Contest which opened Monday at the Rutland Fair and which closed this morning.

The following Rutland babies and babies from surrounding towns were winners in the contest: Class A Division 1, first prize, Paul M. Crossman, Ira; 2nd, Charles Knapp, Pittsfield; 3rd, Herman Mathews, Middletown Springs. Division 2. 1st. prize, Roland Lincoln, Ira; 2nd. Frederick Packard, East Clarendon. Division 3. 1st, prize, Shirley Clark, Chittenden; 2nd Shirley Gilmore, Ira, 3rd, Elizabeth Pratt, Clarendon. Division 4. 1st, prize, Mary Heath, Shrewsbury; 2nd, Barbara Hill, Town of Rutland.

In Class B, Division 1. 1st prize, David J. Roberts, Poultney; 2nd, Malcolm Sergeant, North Clarendon; 3rd, Franklin Whitcomb, Fair Haven. Division 2. 1st. prize, Richard T. Bowen, West Rutland; 2nd Lewis J. Minnich, Poultney. Division 3, 1st. prize, Arline Shattuck, Chester; 2nd. Charlotte Fredette, Center Rutland; 3rd. Ethel Richardson, Cavendish. Division 4. 1st. prize, Marion Stockwell, Fair Haven; 2nd. Virginia Sager, Castleton; 3rd, Shirley McCabe, West Rutland.

Class C. Division 1. first prize, Carroll Roberts, Rutland; 2nd Robert Ellison, Rutland 3rd, Robert C. Bursey, Rutland. Division 2, 1st prize, Merald N. Cook, Rutland; 2nd, Robert L. Brown, Rutland; 3rd, Wilfred Anoe, Rutland. Division 3, 1st prize, Shirley G. Baird, Rutland; 2nd, Marguerita Coursy, Rutland; 3rd, Edna M. Baker, Rutland. Division 4, 1st prize, Dorothy LaVene, Rutland; 2nd. Barbara Sterns, Rutland.

The physicians who determined which babies should be the winners of the prizes which consisted of gold medals for first, silver medals for second and bronze medals for third, included Dr. F. H. Everett, Dr. R.H. Seeley, Dr. D.J. Carroll, Dr. W.G.

Hodsdon and Dr. E.I. Hall. The physicians were assisted by Miss Mary A. Devlin, Public Health Nurse, and by Mrs. Claude Capron.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Excerpts from: Rutland Daily Herald, January 3, 1920

INTERESTING DATA ON FIRST RUTLAND FAIR

Officials of the Rutland Fair Association have been busy for several weeks compiling facts and figures dealing with the first Rutland County Fair, held September 24, 1846. The data is arranged in an artistic manner and has been placed in a picture frame. The document is on exhibition at the office of F. M. Wilson, president of the Fair Association, and it will be officially given to the Rutland Fair Association at the annual meeting of the board of directors.

The document shows the following officers of the first fair: President, Frederick Button, Clarendon; Vice presidents, William Farnum of Poultney and William H. Sanford of Orwell; Recording secretary, J. C. Thrall of this city; Treasurer, James Adams of Castleton; Auditor, Samuel Kellogg of Pittsford; Corresponding secretary, William C. Kittredge of Fair Haven. The names of the managers are also listed in the document.

Another important item that will be of especial interest to Rutland people is the constitution by which the fair was governed. The rules are printed in good large type and form very interesting reading, as they show the difference in conditions at the time of the first fair and the last fair, held last September.

Excerpts from: The Rutland News, December 6, 1917

ANCIENT POSTER COMES TO LIGHT

An advertising poster that is 71 years old and of interest to all agriculturists and persons interested in fairs, is owned by Charles E. Tuttle of this city. The bill announces the first annual fair of the Rutland County Agricultural Society and the premium list shows that the great, great forbears of the present generation were interested in quite a different line of exhibits from those called for in the fair books of today.

The men of 1846 were interested in having trees transplanted and it is possible that those that now line the highways of the County and give such gratifying shade in hot summer days were transplanted with the hopes of securing the award from the Agricultural Society of that day. A premium of \$5 for first and \$3 for second choice was given for the "Best lot of maple trees not less than 50 in number, transplanted in or near the highway this spring, regard being had to their appearance at the time of the fair."

In 1846 field produce was not judged by a number of sample cars of corn or small measures of grains but \$5, \$4, \$3 and \$2 was given for the best acre of wheat and corn and prizes of \$3 and \$2 for the same acreage of oats, rye and peas. It took a half acre of potatoes to secure a premium and a quarter of an acre to get a judging on beans, carrots, rutabagas and beets.

Encouragement was given to the product of the spinning wheel and premiums were given for: Best 10 yards of flannel manufactured in the County; best pound of linen thread; best 10 yards of tow cloth, etc. For the men there were premiums on the best five sides of upper leather, best specimen of tinware. Then there were premiums on all kinds of farming implements but the exhibitor was obliged to prove that the patent of the machine was the work of his own hands.

The importance of the sheep industry of the day is shown by the fact that nearly one seventh of the entire premium list of about 200 articles is devoted to different breeds of these animals and awards were given in some cases on groups of 25 ewes. For the largest amount of maple sugar made at one place, the quality being taken into consideration, \$10 was awarded. Other premiums were given on 25-pound lots.

The constitution, managers, committee of awards and rules were published on the bill and the strictest regulations were made to prevent any person from getting premiums under false pretenses. Where awards were made for field crops the exhibitor had to lodge specifications on how the crop was cultivated, the expenses connected with the production and the condition of the land the previous year. The land had to be in one piece, the crop had to be harvested and the land measured in the presence of disinterested witnesses. The statement containing the facts was filed with the crop committee 10 days before the annual meeting.

The first fair was held at Castleton. Prominent men from all over the County were on the board of managers and the different committees. Among those from Rutland who were connected with the organization in an official capacity were: On the board of managers, Daniel Kelley; Recording secretary; J.C. Thrall; on the committees, Rutland Pierpoint, G. R. Orcutt, Benjamin F. Blanchard, G. T. Hodges, Henry W. Lester, Luther Daniels, Charles Burt, Benjamin Smith, John Cain, Thomas J. Ormsby and James Barrett.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 17, 1918

NIGHT WATCHMAN M'LAUGHLIN LOSES LIFE WHEN FIRE DESTROYS CLEVELAND AVE. SHIRT FACTORY

Contributed by William Powers, Rutland Historical Society

One life is believed to have been sacrificed in the spectacular fire which last evening destroyed the Tauber, Ryttenberg & Co., shirt factory on Cleveland Avenue.

The fire, which is thought to have originated in the boiler room, gutted the building. Hundreds of holiday shoppers were attracted from the business section of the city to the scene of the fire by the flames which mounted high in the air and spread showers of sparks over the western part of the city.

The concern which employed over 150 persons, a majority of whom were girls and young women, had been employed on a war order of army shirts. This was not the only line of work at the plant. A big order of work shirts had been started a short time ago. It is not likely that the building will be rebuilt.

Up to an early hour this morning the officials of the concern and relatives of the night watchman had failed to get any trace of the man. The supposition is that Mr. McLaughlin was in the second story of the building when the fire broke out. According to employees of the Cold Storage plant, the entire central part of the shirt factory was ablaze within five minutes after the fire was discovered.

A telephone alarm was sent to Station No. 1 and almost immediately afterward a general alarm was rung from Box 71 at the corner of State Street and Cleveland Avenue. Five lines of hose were strung from hydrants in that vicinity but the reduced water pressure greatly hampered the work of the firemen. This district has been under investigation for some time and many times Chief of the Fire Department James C. Dunn had requested that a bigger main be installed along State Street.

The firemen saw from the start there was but little chance to save the building and the streams were directed so they might do some good in protecting surrounding property. The heat was so intense that it scorched the building across Cleveland Avenue and for a short time there was danger that the big gas tanks just across the road might explode. Streams of water played on the tanks sent forth clouds of steam, an indication of the intense heat. Along the side of the burning building ran many high tension wires, but employees of the Rutland Railway, Light and Power

Company, who were soon on the scene, had the power shut off and many of these were cut or burned away.

Nothing but the shell of the building was left and at 11 o'clock four streams were playing into the ruins. The brick walls remained standing, although the roof fell in as did both floors. The building was owned by an association of Rutland business men consisting of Frank M. Wilson, president; H.O. Carpenter, vice president; Isaac Miller, treasurer, and the late Edward C. McIntyre was clerk of the corporation. The building was insured as were the contents owned by the Tauber, Ryttenberg & Co.

The building was built about 25 years ago and for 23 years it was occupied by Tim & Co. a shirt making concern, which about four years ago went into insolvency. After remaining idle for some time the property was taken over by the Rutland Realty Company and leased at a very low figure to the present occupants. They had been in operation in this city for about three years. The manager, Louis Goldberg, was at the plant a few minutes after the start of the fire and he is at a loss to understand the cause of the blaze. The boiler room is situated in a separate brick room attached to the east side of the building and it is protected from the main building by fire doors.

When the firemen arrived it was at once reported that the watchman, Mr. McLaughlin, was not to be found and the police were notified, but by this time it was utterly impossible for a man to enter any but the south part of the building and a search there failed to locate the missing watchman.

Rutland Daily Herald, December 18, 1912

Michael E. McLaughlin of Pleasant Street, West Rutland, watchman at the Tauber, Ryttenberg shirt factory on Cleveland Avenue, was found yesterday morning by a party of searchers, who had been at work in the ruins of the building practically all the previous night, after the remains of the structure became cool enough to permit persons to enter. The body was found just inside the south entrance to the building.

It is believed that Mr. McLaughlin was on the second floor when he discovered the fire for in that section of the building persons on the outside saw the electric light burning. It is possible he lighted the light to investigate the smell of smoke and before he was aware of it he was caught in a trap, for the flames spread through the building like wildfire.

The cause of the fire still remains a mystery. Had the fire started in the daytime with the employees at their work it is the general opinion that there would have been a terrible loss of life for the building was a veritable fire trap with oil-soaked

surroundings. Whether or not the shirt factory management will make another attempt to locate in this city could not be determined last night.

Chief Dunn in commenting on the water situation said last night: "This is not anything unexpected and I have made repeated efforts to have the three-inch main on the lower end of State Street replaced with a six-inch main, one which would give proper protection to this important district. There are other big plants in this locality that are entitled to better water pressure than we have had here tonight. Firemen are only human and they cannot stop a fire without water."

Rutland Daily Herald, December 18, 1907

Michael E. McLaughlin of Pleasant Street, who lost his life in the shirt factory fire in Rutland Monday night, was 69 years old and had lived in this village for the last 40 years. He is survived by his wife, and two sons, William B. of this village, Frederick C. of Poultney and Walter F. of Camp Devens.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, September 26, 1919

SHIRT FACTORY IS TO BE A MODEL OF UPTODATENESS

Tauber-Lipton Co. Has New Building in This City Already Well Underway

The foundation has already been completed and carpenters are at work on the first floor of the new modern shirt factory which Tauber-Lipton & Co. of New York are to build on the site on Cleveland Avenue recently given the firm by the Rutland Realty Company, owners of the building at the same location which was burned last winter. The new building, which will be two stories high, will have every up-to-date equipment known to the shirt world. In fact it will be the best of 22 factories owned by the Tauber-Lipton Company and they will make it a model in order to ascertain the usefulness of several new "wrinkles" in the business. Its cutting room, which will have seven tables each 165 feet long, will be the largest of any of the manufacturing plants maintained by the company.

The entire building will be 180 by 60 feet. A cemented basement, suitable to be used as a laundry and storage room, will be an improvement over the old building, which had practically no basement. On the ground floor there will be a receiving room, a department for the manufacture of paper boxes, which is a new feature, a sewing and pressing room, a rest room and cafeteria for employees and the office. The cutting department will occupy the upper floor.

The manufacture of boxes will facilitate shipment of goods and will give employment to additional hands. The rest room and cafeteria are features that it is expected will be greatly appreciated by the operatives. Theodore A. Nicollette of New York, who is in charge of the establishment of the new plant, has not yet decided how this feature will be operated.

The new factory will give accommodations for 200 hands, considerably more than the burned structure.

At the temporary quarters on West Street, the concern has had about 100 hands. Some of these have been moved to the House of Correction building [previously closed] that has been leased for a few months for cutting and other quarters. There is also to be established at once at the House of Correction building a department for making flannel robes and there is opportunity for about 15 persons to obtain employment in this work.

Mr. Nicollette became acquainted with officers of Tauber-Lipton & Co., just after the Rutland fire. He was employed by the government in looking after the manufacture of Army shirts during the war. Some Army material was destroyed in the fire on Cleveland Avenue and the government sent Mr. Nicollette to this city to investigate the matter. He now has charge of the department of production at the Lipton plants.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 20, 1918

**TWO GREAT REPAIR SHOPS TO BE BUILT HERE AT ONCE BY
RUTLAND RAILROAD, COST TO BE \$300,000**

Shop for Locomotives and One for Coaches to Be Erected, Both of Them to Be of Brick, Concrete and Steel.

That Rutland is to further strengthen its title of "the railroad center of Vermont" is emphasized in the announcement that the Rutland Railroad is to expend approximately \$300,000 in the erection of locomotive and coach repair shops here. An official statement to this effect is made from the office of General Manager Georges T. Jarvis. It is hoped to have this important development of the company's plant completed before another winter. The announcement insures the continued operation of the shops in Rutland and the dropping of whatever plans the company may have considered for removal of the works to some other city.

The contract for the erection of the structures has been awarded and the work will begin immediately. Building notifications were forwarded yesterday afternoon to Mayor Henry C. Brislin with a request from the company's officials that the board of aldermen act upon the matter as soon as possible to the end that operations may commence.

The old shops will be retained in their present locations. The new buildings will be so arranged that operations therein may be carried on in conjunction with the work in the shops which were constructed 55 years ago and which have been inadequate for many years.

The specifications filed yesterday call for the erection of two big, concrete, steel and brick buildings, the coach shop to be located just west of the tunnel on Pine Street and the locomotive and construction shop just north of the new boiler shop. In addition to these two building there will be constructed a concrete retaining wall of 170 feet along on Furnace Street, one transfer table pit 45 by 287 feet, one transfer table pit 75 by 187 feet and a coal trestle 100 feet long.

The construction and locomotive repair shop will be 235 by 105 feet in dimensions and will be 50 feet in height. It will have a concrete foundation, brick walls with steel frame and a wooden roof covered with five-ply tar and gravel, insuring protection against fire. Between the new and old shops will be a transfer table which will serve the tracks entering both shops. The construction of the new shop will make possible much heavy work which has necessarily been done at some other point, some of it at Malone, NY.

The coach repair shop which has been inadequate for many years, will be turned into a freight car repair shop. In years past this work has been attempted out of doors, but in unfavorable weather the men could not work in this branch of the repair service.

The new coach shop will be 172 by 125 feet and will be 30 feet in height, built of concrete and brick. In addition there will be a tool room 45 by 45 feet. The coach shop will occupy the space just west of the Pine Street tunnel, which has been used for a cinder dump for many years.

The new work was included in a financial budget submitted to the government officials by General Manager Jarvis several months ago when he estimated extraordinary expenditures of \$982,000 by the road.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, June 10, 1919

VOTE TO BUY THE CRAIN PROPERTY

County Jail Commission Decides On New Site

Charles L. Howe of this city, Dan D. Burditt of Pittsford, G.H. V. Allen of Fair Haven, G. L. Bacheller of Wallingford and George H. Young of Brandon, who comprise a commission appointed by the last legislature to take steps to secure a new Rutland County jail when the present one is done away with through the discontinuance of the House of Correction, met yesterday afternoon in this city and definitely decided to buy the Dr. M. R. Crain property on Center Street as a site. The title is being looked up today and it is expected that papers will be passed within a few days.

The Crain property consists of a deep lot on the north side of Center Street with a large brick house fronting on the street and a barn in the rear. It is not proposed to disturb the house and barn, there being ample room on the portion of the property now used as a garden to erect a modern jail building. While no definite plans have yet been decided upon it is probable that a one-story structure will be built, with quarters for both men and women.

With the system of parole and probation that is now much in use and with the discontinuance of the sale of intoxicating liquor, comparatively few prisoners are in the custody of the County jailer except, perhaps, when a term of County Court approaches there may be several held to await trial.

At present there are only three jail prisoners at the House of Correction building and two of these are behind the bars because of inability to obtain bail.

The Rutland News, February 24, 1921

NEW JAIL READY FOR COUNTY COURT TERM

Expected That Six Cells Will Be Completed By Second Week In March

The new Rutland County Jail on Center Street, which has been in process of construction for a year, will be used for the first time during the spring term of Rutland County Court which opens March 8. An effort is being made to

rush the finishing touches on some of the cells in order that one section may be ready for occupation when court is in session. This will insure a place in Rutland for keeping prisoners going before the court to be sentenced.

Since discontinuance of the House of Correction and the County Jail which was attached to it, Rutland County has been obliged to send prisoners to Middlebury, paying railroad fares and board. It would be very inconvenient when court is in session if it were necessary to go 33 miles for accused persons when they are required to stand trial or testify.

The section of the local jail, that will be ready first according to Deputy Sheriff John F. Smith, the jailer, is that which will eventually be designed for women's quarters. There are six cells that will be finished first.

This building still stands, not as a prison, but as a home to many businesses.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Excerpts from Rutland Historical Society Quarterly, Volume XVI No.3
[Researched by Dawn Hance]

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY

When Rutland was chosen as the new county seat in 1784 the transfer brought an influx of lawyers, court personnel and craftsmen into town. These men, some of whom had acquired a college degree, knew the benefits derived from a solid education and realized the importance of linking their rural New England lives with those of others through literature. Since it was expensive to own a large private library, some decided to band together and sell subscriptions to obtain the necessary funds for the purchase of books. These in turn were loaned out to the subscribers and general public.

In 1792 the noted magistrate Nathaniel Chipman proposed the formation of the Rutland Social Library, which would service persons living within six miles of the courthouse. He offered to donate between 80 and 100 volumes and by March 1794 the number had grown to 161 books on hand. An annual subscription sold for four dollars. The society lasted until, at least, 1841.

In 1795 the Reverend Lemuel Haynes, the well-known mulatto minister, announced that the drawing of the West Rutland Library would be held at this home. And in 1829 the editor of the *Rutland Herald*, had fitted up a reading room at his printing office. However, by 1886 these organizations had likely passed from the scene.

That January, at the suggestion of Mrs. P. R. Kendall, 63 women met with Miss Mary Daniels to devise a plan to establish a library. Rutland's poet laureate, Julia C.R Dorr, was made chairwoman. At a second meeting held at Mrs. Allen's on North Main Street the group numbered over one hundred persons. Temporary officers were named and plans were underway to present a loan exhibition. This exhibition ran from February 9th -12th 1886.

The library was off to a good start and at the March 1887 town meeting the voters appropriated a liberal tax for the support of the library. The following March the library was offered the lower floor of Memorial Hall. The association gratefully accepted and the move was made in March 1889.

In December 1930 the library was asked to vacate Memorial Hall, which was being torn down and replaced with the present Post Office/Federal building on West Street. The federal government and the city of Rutland made a property swap. The federal government was to get the land where Memorial

Hall stood for its new building and the city was to acquire the old Post Office/Federal building at the corner of Court and Center Streets. At the same time it was agreed that the library would occupy the old federal building.

The federal building, which was to house the library, was then nearly 72 years old. Its history dates back to 1856. Plans for the building were exhibited at George Tuttle's Bookstore in February 1857 and construction began that spring. The appropriation for the erection of this building was obtained through the instrumentality of the Hon. Solomon Foot, who at his death bequeathed his splendid library to be kept in the building.

On August 1, 1935 the renovations were completed. All the books were deposited in one large room at the library, where two months of classifying and arranging followed.

When the library moved into the federal building in 1935, no one envisioned that one day it would outgrow those 10 spacious rooms, but by 1960 the trustees were calling for an addition. The following year they engaged Rutland architect Payson R. Webber to draw up plans and to obtain quotes for construction of a one-story addition. The new section, to be erected on the east side of the building, would include an adult reading room and enlargement of the reference and children's rooms. In 1964 Edwin Lawrence, who had recently given the city a recreation center located across Center Street from the library, made a \$30,000 donation to the association. This money, library funds and a federal grant financed the new addition that was completed in 1966.

The library building has always been a focal point of the community. In its early years it was the scene of courtroom trials and of people coming to pick up their mail. Today it is a focal point of a different kind: offering reading material, records, microfilm, [computer technology] as well as entertainment usually staged in the Nella Grimm Fox room. Book reviews, special displays, art exhibits, story hours, lecture, and musical offerings have been held regularly at the library. Today, this architecturally prominent building stands as the cultural center of this community.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, June 7, 1924

RUTLAND'S FIRST AUTO OWNERS

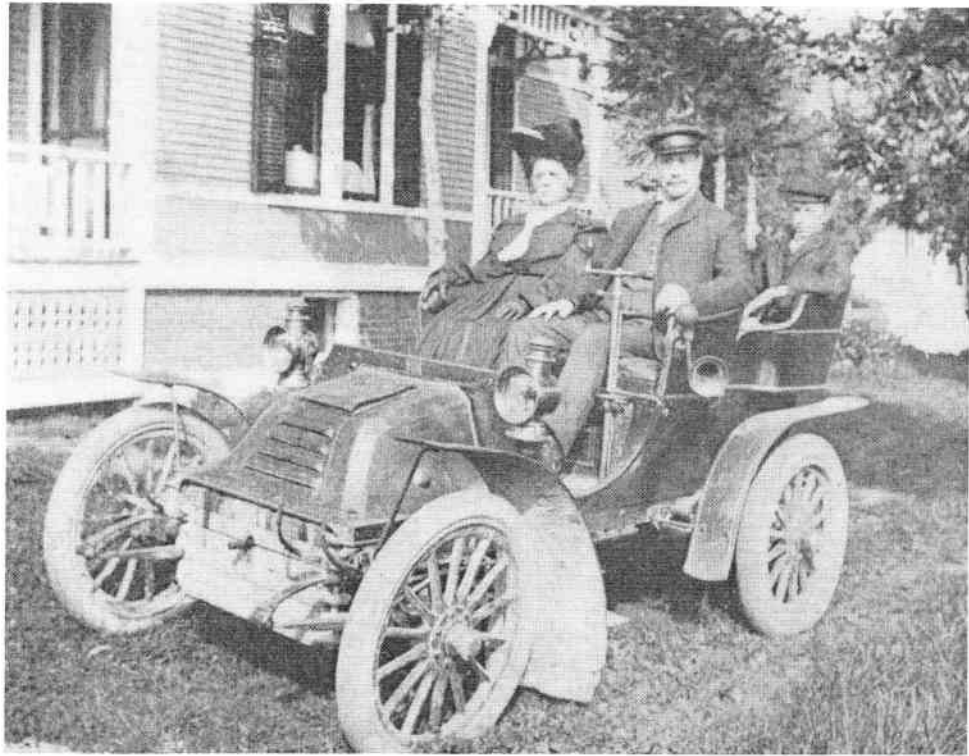
Horsepowers of First Cars In This Vicinity Don't Compare With Those of Today.

Charles A. Matthews, manager of the Rutland Machine & Auto Company inc., as in his possession a complete list of the first automobile owners in the State who were also the first required by law to register their machines with the Secretary of State. That was in 1905.

Rutland automobile owners at that time and their cars were:

Brown & Garrett, Locomobile Co., 4 1/2 Horse Power
Raymond F. Russell, Mobile Co., 4-5 H. P.
Albert Colombe, Stanley Motor Co., 5 H.P.
Sumner Childs, Auto Car Co., 10 H.P.
P. W. Clement, Apperson Bros., 40 H. P.
John H. Frenier, The Auto Car Co., 10 H.P.
Erwin White, Waltham Mfg. Co., 3 12 H. P.
Edward F. Hassey, Thomas B. Jefferey & Co., 16 H. P.
John N. Woodfin, Northern Mfg. Co., 16 H. P.
Martin L. Gleason, Thomas B. Jeffrey & Co., 18 H.P.
S. M. Willson, Stanley M. C. Co., 10 H.P.
F. R. Patch, R. W. Goodrich, T.A. Reardon, George S. Haley, A.C.H. Bachand, Harry Willard, Home-made, 6 1/2 H. P.
Charles T. Brown, B. V. Covert & Co., 5-6 H.P.
Edward J. Slade, Home-made, 10 H.P.
Charles D. Andrews, Locomobile, 4 1/2 H.P.
Timothy A. Reardon, Locomobile, 6 H.P.
Harold W. Ross, Center Rutland, Winton, 20 H.P.
J. H. Eitapence, Grout Bros., 8 H.P.
Wayne S. Clark, Crest, 8 H.P.
Charles A. Matthews, Pope, 6 H.P.
W.W. Nichols, Grout Bros., 10 H.P.
E.E. Keyes, White Sewing Machine, 10 H.P.
H. W. Ross, B.V. Covert, 9 H.P.
G. T. Chaffee, White Sewing Machine, 10 H.P.
N. K. Chaffee, Stanley, 10 H.P.
Raymond F. Russell, Mobile, 4-5 H. P.

It was about the same year that George Chaffee got a ticket for speeding in downtown Rutland !



John Fremier with his family in
1903 Oldsmobile, Model 4.

In My Pictures
Transportation folder
Pic T 6

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, February 7, 1924

DANA SCHOOL BURNS, LOSS \$100,000

Cause of Fire Still Unknown

Fire, the origin of which is not definitely known, destroyed the Dana School Building about 6:30 o'clock this morning. The fire means an additional loss to some 325 pupils who were receiving their education in the building.

So far as can be learned the fire was discovered by a woman who saw flames shooting from a window in one of the northeast rooms on the second floor.

Theories advanced as to the cause of the fire are that it may have resulted from defective wiring, or that it may have been caused by an oil stove or an electric toaster in the event that either of the latter was accidentally left burning following a meeting of the Dana Parent-Teacher Association yesterday afternoon. One thing is certain--the fire had been burning for some time when it was discovered.

The building was erected in 1907 at a cost of \$41,145 and since then many thousands of dollars have been spent in equipment and improvement. The building was regarded as one of the best school buildings in the city. The building cannot be rebuilt today for less than \$125,000.

February 9, 1924

TO OFFER PLAN ON DANA SCHOOL

The Board of Education will hold a special meeting Monday evening for the purpose of adopting some plan for the rebuilding of the Dana School.

The definite cause of the fire is still unknown but many believe that it started from a defective chimney. L. M. Oney, the janitor of the building, states that there was no person in the building at the time of the fire and there had been one in the building for several hours before.

The Board of Education, through President Walter S. Fenton, has absolved the Dana Parent-Teacher Association of any blame for the fire. Members of the Association were not in the building after 6 o'clock and the investigation shows that the fire was not caused by an oil stove or an electric toaster, as had been persistently rumored.

February 20, 1924

DANA BUILDING TO BE REPAIRED

Estimates as to the cost of repairing the Dana School building and replacing the contents destroyed indicated that it would be necessary to provide funds to the amount of several thousand dollars in excess of the \$22,500 insurance which will be available.

It was at first anticipated that it would be necessary to raise this money either by a special tax or by an issue of bonds, but City Treasurer Davis outlined a plan which, after conference with the Mayor and President of the School Board, was submitted to the board Saturday evening, that would obviate the necessity for issuing any bonds or calling for a special tax, and would leave the tax rate for the next year just as it is.

The plan contemplated the using of the balance of the high school insurance money now on hand, deferring for a year certain rather expensive repairs to other school buildings and applying the money instead to be used therefor to the Dana building, and the use of such other money available for school purposes as could be spared by the exercises of the most rigid economy, the balance to be taken care of by the general city funds. In as much as there was a small reduction in the state tax, both the City Treasurer and the Mayor believe that by the same rigid economy on the part of the City Council there will be sufficient money in the Dana School repairs and they felt that the matter should be handled in that way and the tax rate held where it is, rather than to ask for any special tax or any bond issue.

The board unanimously concurred in this view and adopted the plan outlined by Mr. Davis.

MEANWHILE WHERE DID THE CHILDREN GO TO SCHOOL?

February 7, 1924

A reassignment of the pupils who were enrolled at the Dana School is made necessary by the fire of this morning. The pupils will be distributed as follows:

Grades 1-2-3-4 and 5B will report at the Madison building from 12:45 to 4:30 PM each day. The children registered at the Madison building will attend school there from 8:30 AM to 12:15 PM each day.

Grade 5A will meet in Room 2 and Grade 6A will meet in Room 11 of the High School each day from 1 PM to 5 PM.

Grade 6B and the Ungraded room will meet in the Longfellow Building each day from 12:45 to 4:30 PM.

Grade 7 will have regular school hours at the Lincoln Building.

We call upon all parents and citizens to give the schools their assistance and cooperation in the present emergency. some will be seriously inconvenienced by the school hours and the distance children have to travel. It is believed that the arrangement outlined above will serve the interests of the children concerned better than any other plan.

The long session for the young children will be broken by rest-play lunch periods so that they will suffer no harm.

All that at a time of neighborhood schools and no busing !

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, November 19, 1924

WILL DROP ALL TROLLEY LINES

John G. Sargent, general counsel for the Vermont Hydro-Electric Corporation and the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Company, announced in Supreme Court this morning that the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Company plans to discontinue all of its lines in the near future.

The statement was made because at the time the chancery case of the State of Vermont and the Town of West Rutland against the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Company was argued before the Supreme Court. He stated that the railway company would continue to operate its cars as far as the Delaware and Hudson railroad station in West Rutland, until the decision of the Vermont Supreme Court was rendered. He stated that he desired to give this notice so that the plaintiffs, in the chancery case may have the opportunity to take any action that they desire before the service is discontinued. The company claims to have lost several thousand dollars in the operation of the cars during the last year.

The company has tried increased fares, curtailment of service and other means, but the earnings are still on the decline.

November 22, 1924

ALDERMEN MAY ACT IN TROLLEY CASE

Several Favor Proceedings to Determine City's Rights In Matter.

The announcement made yesterday by former Attorney General, John G. Sargent, general counsel for the Rutland Railway Light & Power Company, that after November 30 the company would cease operation of all of its trolley lines, caused much comment today.

Although nothing definite has been decided, it is known that several members of the Board of Aldermen are in favor of starting proceedings against the company to determine the city's rights. There are two important questions for consideration. If the company is allowed to stop operation of its lines will the city's road bed be placed in the same condition they were before the tracks were laid and has the Rutland Railway Light & Power Company authority to stop traction in Rutland under its charter.

November 24, 1924

OPPOSE ENDING OF STREET CAR SERVICE

Move Expected To Be Made To Restrain Rutland Railway, Light & Power Co. from Discontinuing Operation of Trolley Lines.

Action to compel the Rutland Railway Light and Power Co. to continue street railway service in and around Rutland is expected immediately. Movements are now under way which will result in some positive steps before the end of the week. This will probably take the form of an application to the proper court authority for an order restraining the company from carrying out its announced intention of abandoning the lines on December 1.

Unless a complete change of heart is indicated on the part of the street railway company, it is expected that an application for a temporary restraining order would be opposed by the company. If the order is granted, a date for a hearing to ascertain whether the order would be made final would, according to the custom, be set. In the event of such hearing, detailed arguments would be heard and the decision then handed down would be final.

November 25, 1924

CONSIDER MEANS TO KEEP CARS RUNNING

Special State Counsel, City Attorney or Attorneys For Town of West Rutland May Take Action Aimed to Prevent Cessation of Trolley Service Next Monday.

Plans of action in the Rutland Street Railroad case are in process of formation today. Some effort to compel the continuation of service in Rutland and from Rutland to West Rutland is expected before the expiration of the ultimatum delivered by the company expires on December 1.

The Town of West Rutland, through its attorneys, Lawrence, Stafford and Bloomer, is likewise watching the proceedings with interest. Being deeply interested in continuation of service it is considered fairly certain that, if necessary, the Town of West Rutland will take a hand in the proceedings.

November 28, 1924

AUTO BUSES MAY REPLACE STREET CARS

Application Made By Trucking Firm

The Ward Trucking Company is ready to establish autobus routes around the routes of the north and south belt lines of the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Co. if and when street railway service on these lines is discontinued.

Mayor Dunn told Commissioner West that, although he wanted it understood that he was not committing the city to any blanket approval of the proposal, that if street railway service were finally discontinued it appeared to him that bus lines provided the best way out. He recommended A. F. Ward, head of the trucking concern, as one well qualified by character and experience to undertake the direction of the enterprise.

November 29, 1924

STREETCAR SERVICE WILL BE CONTINUED

Operation To Cease December 27th

Street railway service in Rutland and from Rutland to West Rutland will be continued on the present schedule until December 27.

This result is the outcome of a movement initiated last evening at a stormy and secret session of the Board of Aldermen at which Mayor Dunn and City Attorney Kinney were present.

The present intention of the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Co. is to discontinue all service on December 27 at midnight. What course the city will follow has yet to be determined.

Street paving work around and between car tracks is a matter that will be discussed at future conferences.

The agreement as it stands leaves the city with hands free to proceed to a solution of the city's transportation problem in whatever way may be thought best. In this connection it is possible that some city officials, at least, will favor the operation of bus lines under conditions whereby for conveying certain privileges to a bus corporation this concern will guarantee a certain service backed by resources adequate to insure permanency of service.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Continued from Last Week

December 6, 1924

ANOTHER LARGE BUS PUT IN SERVICE HERE

In anticipation of the public demand for increased bus service as soon as the trolley service to West Rutland is discontinued, a local motorbus company has added to its equipment a new 25 passenger White Bus, making a total of four White Buses of the same capacity this company now has in operation.

After Dec. 27, one bus will be devoted exclusively to regular scheduled runs between Rutland and West Rutland, thus assuring the public of adequate transportation facilities between these two points. The other three buses will be used as now in runs from Rutland to Fair Haven and Proctor.

December 8, 1924

WILL TAKE UP BUS ORDINANCE

It is Practically Certain That City Will Not Take Steps to Prevent Discontinuance of Street Car Service Dec. 27.

Discontinuance of streetcar service in Rutland is now regarded as certain in well-informed quarters. The probability is that the last trolley car will run the evening of December 27 without any effort on the part of the city to force continuance.

The Board of Aldermen will consider a proposed ordinance that would empower the License Commission to grant licenses for operating motorbuses on the streets of the city.

December 24, 1924

BUSES TO FOLLOW BELT LINE ROUTES

They Will Replace Trolley Car Service Which Will Be Terminated Saturday Night--Operating Schedule Filed With Petition.

When the Rutland Railway Light & Power Company ceases operation of its trolley cars Saturday night, Rutland will promptly see the inauguration of a motor bus system around the North and South belt lines, according to a petition of A. F. Ward

to the City License Board. Mr. Ward, who for several years has been engaged in the trucking business, plans to run buses on schedule.

December 29, 1924

STREET CAR SERVICE ENDS IN RUTLAND

Buses Replace Car System In Operation For Nearly Forty Years.

Trolley cars in Rutland became a matter of history at 11:40 o'clock Saturday night when operation ceased on two belts covering about eight miles of track in this city. In taking off these cars permanently the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Company deprives Rutland of streetcar service after 40 years of continuous use of the vehicles, either horse-drawn or motor driven.

From 1885 to the early nineties horses furnished the motive power. When the line was electrified out-of-town interests invested capital here and the service was extended to Poultney and intermediate points and a branch was built to Lake Bomoseen from Castleton. The Bomoseen line was junked during World War I but not until last July did the company cease running the Fair Haven division, after conducting a losing fight against gasoline for years.

A touch of human interest was added to the last trip made by the trolleys last night when J. A. Hotchkiss, who was conductor on the first trolley to run over the line, pulled the cord for the last fare. Police Officer Thomas C. Elworth, one of the passengers on the first trip made by the trolley as well as of the first horse car here, also rode around the belt last night. Motorbuses began operation over the belts yesterday morning.

December 30, 1924

ASK PERMISSION TO OPERATE FOUR AUTOBUSES ON WEST RUTLAND LINE

The Rutland Bus Company, Inc., through its attorney, Lawrence C. Jones, has petitioned the Board of License Commissioners, composed of President of the Board of Aldermen D.A. Bruten, City Clerk, H. B. Whittier and Commissioner of Public Safety, Fred C. Roberts for permission to operate four buses from Washington Street and Merchants Row to the Center Rutland town line. If granted a license the company will file an operating schedule of the arrival and departure of buses.

Since the trolley cars stopped operating between Rutland and West Rutland residents of the western section of the City have been greatly inconvenienced. Merchants in Rutland are in favor of the operation of buses along the main line.

December 31, 1924

LOCAL MEN CONSIDER BUYING STREET CAR TRACKS FOR JUNK

There was a rumor afloat yesterday that several local business men were negotiating for the purchase of the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Company trolley lines and equipment. Officials of the company today said that three or four Rutland men had been investigating the lines relative to purchasing them for junk, not for operating purposes.

Company officials stated that within six months the entire trackage system and trolley cars will have been removed from the city. The company has practically completed the sale of the car barns on South Main Street to two local men who will use one building for an office and contractors' shop and the other for storage purposes.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Taken from a scrapbook of poems etc., from the 1920s through late 1940s, that my husband's mother kept. I thought you would enjoy this timely one, apparently written after the flood of 1927

THANKSGIVING IN VERMONT

Well, Ma, 'spose we'll have Thanksgiving this year?
Things around the farm are lookin' pretty drear,
Flood's taken nigh about everything we had.
Didn't take us. 'Spose we oughter be glad!
Folks down the valley worse off than we be,
Trouble and heartbreak as far as you can see.
And Winter coming on. Outlook ain't bright,
But shucks, what Vermonter's ever skeerd at night?
Things is pretty dark now. But we'll work away,
And in no time at all, there'll be a better day!
We'll have a new home, we'll do a lot o' livin',
And have the folks back for a big Thanksgivin!

Say, Ma, this Thanksgiving—now don' go and cry,
You better be sure your hanky's handy by—
We'll eat with the Parson—he likes his little joke,
Told me a story, I was nearly fit to choke,
The night they gave the play in the Odd Fellows' hall,
An' shot Hen Perkins—and Hen forgot to fall!
'Member? Guess we do! Say, we'll have a lot of fun!
Clouds all passed, and nuthin's left but sun.
The Parson's good to all, knows you're sinner,
But, just the same, he may let you fix the dinner,
And, gosh, I hope he does! You know just the bake
A real Vermont turkey's entitled to take!

Come, Ma, let's cheer up, like the Governor said—
Be thankful the flood didn't leave us for dead—
Say, his message says, here, "We'll be a better people"—
Oughter shout that from the top of the steeple!
We'll get along—with a hand here and there—
Never was a load your Vermonter couldn't bear!
And, jinks, I forgot! Something else to tell,
Got a letter in my pocket—from our Jim and Nell!
Yes, ma'am, they've written they'll both be on hand,

That's right! I recon that's what you call grand.
What? The Parson? He knows—Sure, he up and wrote!
And Jim said they'd come if they needed a boat!

Now, Ma, you're yourself! Gosh, I almost could cheer,
You bet we're going to have Thanksgiving this year!

Joseph K. Colton

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IN 20545

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, June 8, 1925

BRIDGE COMMISSION DISCUSSES PROJECT

Members of Vermont-New York Board to Pass On Feasibility of Spanning Lake Champlain; Take Up Preliminary Investigation of Costs

The New York- Vermont Champlain Bridge Commission at a meeting with highway engineers of New York and Vermont here last week discussed preliminary investigations to be made into the costs of erecting a bridge across the lake. Five points at which the bridge might span Champlain have been suggested. After the meeting the New York commission announced the appointment of Carl F. Peterson of Port Henry, NY as secretary of the New York group.

The joint commission was created this year by action of the New York and Vermont legislatures. It will study sites and make recommendations for the erection of the proposed structure.

After estimates of cost have been made by the engineers, they will report to the commission, which will arrange for public hearing with Chambers of Commerce in towns along the routes of the proposed sites. When these hearing have been concluded, the commission will make its decision on the site to recommend.

The original project was to build a vehicular bridge across Lake Champlain and four of the five locations have been suggested with this end in view. The fifth, the farthest north, is a proposed site for a combination vehicular and railroad span between West Swanton and Rouses Point, NY. It will be necessary to construct two bridges if this site is located, one between West Swanton and Alburg and another between Alburg and Rouses Point.

The next proposed site from north to south is from Chimney Point to Crown Point Park, NY, the western end to be located near the ruins of Fort St. Frederic. For this site are claimed natural advantages and network of highways from both sides of the lake. Other proposed sites are from West Bridport to Crown Point Village, from Larrabee's Point to Montcalm, NY and from Chipman's Point to Wrights, NY.

The Rutland News, July 13, 1925

BRIDGE COMMISSION TO MEET JULY 21ST

On Tuesday the 21st, the commissioners will meet at Montcalm Landing where they will take the steamer Vermont for Bluff Point, spending the night at Hotel Champlain. That evening they will meet with a delegation from the Plattsburg Chamber of Commerce.

On Wednesday, the 22nd, the commissioners will motor direct to St. Albans, where a hearing will be held at noon. Following the hearing the commissioners will visit Rouses Point, Albarg and West Swanton, the proposed site for the northern bridge. After viewing the site at these places, the commissioners will motor to Burlington. A hearing will be held in the Chamber of Commerce rooms that evening. The commissioners will spend the night in Burlington.

On Thursday, the 23rd, the commissioners will motor to Middlebury, where a hearing will be held. Following the hearing the commissioners will motor to Chimney Point where they will take the ferry to Fort St. Frederic. They will view the site of that place, one of the proposed sites for the southern bridge. The commissioners will also visit the Crown Point State Reservation, and the proposed site at Crown Point will be viewed. From Crown Point the commissioners will motor to Port Henry where a hearing will be held. The commissioners will spend the night at Port Henry.

Friday, the 24th, the commissioners will motor to Wrights and Fort Ticonderoga, two of the other proposed sites for the southern bridge. They will also visit the ruins at Fort Ticonderoga. The commissioners will spend the night at Ticonderoga. On Saturday, the 25th, a trip through Lake George has been arranged.

It is expected, including the commissioners of both states, that twenty will make the trip. Commissioner M. Y. Ferris, chairman of the New York commission, will have charge of the hearing in New York and Commissioner George Z. Thompson, chairman of the Vermont Commission will have charge of the hearings in Vermont.

The Rutland News, July 23, 1925

ATTEND SESSION OF BRIDGE COMMISSION

Members of Rutland Chamber of Commerce Urge That If Champlain Span is Built It Be from Benson or Orwell to Ticonderoga, NY

Herman W. Vaughn, Henry O. Carpenter, George E. Chalmers and Albert S. Reed, representing the Rutland Chamber of Commerce, attended a hearing before the New York-Vermont Champlain Bridge Commission and strongly stressed the advisability of having the proposed bridge erected from the section of Lake Champlain near Benson and Orwell to Ticonderoga, NY. Their views were supported by the Brandon Chamber of Commerce and others.

One of the important points brought out at the meeting by Chairman Thompson was that the United States Government has given notice that it will require an 85-foot clearance if the bridge is built without a draw. There seems to be no point on the lake, Chairman Thompson said, where an 85-foot clearance would be practical from an engineering standpoint, so it is likely if a bridge were constructed, it would have to be a drawbridge.

Some members of the New York State commission favor Larrabee's point as the best place for the bridge. There is a vast amount of traffic over the ferries at that point.

The Rutland News, August 22, 1925

CHAMPLAIN SPAN WOULD AID STATE

Public Opinion Favors Building Span At Southern End of Lake; Ticonderoga, Crown Point or Chimney Point Are Likely Places.

There is a growing interest in the proposal to bridge Lake Champlain and whether the project is authorized by the next Vermont Legislature or some subsequent Legislature. Sooner or later the bridge is likely to become a reality, because it will serve a large number of people and bring more visitors into Vermont. One cannot tell how soon revenue from tolls would pay interest on bonds and provide for a sinking fund to care for them at maturity.

It is safe to predict that the travel over such a bridge would be heavy and that it would steadily increase. If it can be demonstrated that there is a reasonable prospect that such a bridge can be made to pay for itself in time, or can be made to pay for a major part of its cost, then there is a probability that legislative assent will be given. The development of New York sentiment will be watched with interest as that state is likely to pay considerably more than half the cost

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, January 17, 1925

RUTLAND HIGH SCHOOL MUSICIANS HAVE UNUSUALLY PROFITABLE YEAR

Excerpts from a report to the Board of School Commissioners by Frank C. Phillips, Director of music.

The growth of the high school orchestra, the formation of a dance orchestra, the organization of a chorus and the prospects of organizing a chorus group among the members of the Freshman class are some of the points touched upon by Frank C. Phillips, assistant principal and director of music at the Rutland High School, in his annual report to Superintendent of Schools William W. Fairchild.

"I wish first to give a brief outline of the work of the music department of the high school as it is being carried on at the present time. The high school chorus is open to all pupils of the Sophomore, Junior and Senior classes, whose voices are at all suitable, whose ears have been sufficiently trained to enable them to keep a part and who will attend rehearsals regularly. Owing to the present afternoon schedule, [crowding caused the high school to have an afternoon schedule for Freshmen], it is impossible to allow any members of the Freshman class to join the school chorus, but we hope to be able, later in the school year, to form a Freshman chorus which will enable pupils who desire it to have some musical work during their first year in high school. Between 30 and 40 Freshmen have already expressed their intention of joining such a chorus if it is organized. From the upper classes 80 girls and 30 boys have applied for admission in the chorus and nearly all of them have been allowed to join.

"Four one-hour periods each week are devoted to chorus rehearsals. All music is carefully chosen so that it will be neither too high nor too low in range, as either extreme places a severe strain on young, untrained voices. While boys and girls are capable of making plenty of noise with their voices during the school period, singing of a wrong sort is apt to prove more disastrous to their voices during this period than at any other time in their lives. Most boys enter high school with voices which have not yet changed or which are in the process of changing. In the majority of cases, their voices do not become sufficiently settled to make it safe for them to attempt to sing tenor or bass until their third year in high school consequently there are comparatively few male voices available at this time.

"The change in boys' voices is so apparent that most people are well aware of it, but it is not so well understood that girls' voices undergo a change at about the same period. This change is not so marked, nor so inconvenient as the change in boys'

voices, but it does make it necessary to use a great deal of care in handling girls' voices at this time, especially to make sure that they do not sing too loud or too high. Many girls of high school age utterly ruin their voices by attempting to do solo work too early and without proper training.

"One of the most encouraging features of the musical work of the high school has been the growth of the school orchestra. My first Rutland orchestra in 1919 contained 10 members. By 1921, it had grown to 21 members and at the present time we have a membership of 57.

"In September of this year a smaller orchestra of 20 members, known as the dance orchestra, was chosen from the larger group. This dance orchestra has a special rehearsal of one or two hours a week and plays both standard music and jazz.

"In addition to playing at the high school assemblies once a month this orchestra plays for receptions and dances given by classes of the school and similar entertainments. It is also used as a theater orchestra to accompany the school operas, to play between the acts of the Senior play and on other occasions.

"Several parents have consulted me during the past few months regarding interest in the orchestra and they intend to have their children begin during the coming year. This growing interest in the orchestra and the spirit of cooperation displayed by both pupils and parents are very encouraging."

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, December 5, 1925

SPARGO TELLS OF FIRST VT. EDITOR

Anthony Haswell Had Picturesque Career and Was In Jail Here

John Spargo of Old Bennington, economist and sociologist, has been in town the last few days, conferring with the Tuttle Company on his book, "Anthony Haswell--Printer, Patriot and Ballader," which the company is going to publish before Christmas.

Mr. Spargo, whom the *News* reporter found in Tuttle's old book room, explained that the book is to be a monument to the man of whom the memory, as a great pioneer printer and publisher, deserves to be perpetuated. It is to be of large quarto size and will contain 300 pages and many full-page engravings and facsimiles of Haswell's manuscripts, books and pamphlets. The paper is made from all linen rags, special type is being used and the book will have a fine binding. "It will be the finest piece of book-making ever turned out in Vermont," said Mr. Spargo. The edition will be limited to 300 autographer copies and then the type will be distributed

Here is the story of Anthony Haswell as told by Mr. Sprago:

Anthony Haswell was born in Portsmouth, England and came to Boston as a boy of 12. He was apprenticed to a potter. He began his literary career at the age of 13 or 14 by writing verses for *The Sons of Liberty*, a patriotic American secret society that arose at the time of the Revolution.

A little later, he was apprenticed to Isiah Thomas, the most famous of the early New England printers, who had shops at Boston and Worcester. In 1780, Haswell leased from Thomas *The Massachusetts Spy*, the most influential paper in Massachusetts, for one year.

The leaders of the state government wanted a paper that would print their pamphlets, legal documents, etc. So they asked Anthony Haswell to come to Bennington and finally persuaded him, promising him public patronage in his printing and the monopoly of the right to establish a postal system.

In 1783, Haswell went to Bennington taking with him a hand press, a small supply of type, a wife and two children and his native energy. He opened a printing shop and carried out the agreement. Governor Chittenden appointed him postmaster general of Vermont. This position he held until Vermont

came into the Union in 1791. On June 5, 1783, he established the *Vermont Gazette* at Bennington. This paper continued well into the 19th Century.

While running the *Vermont Gazette* at Bennington, he established a paper and print shop at Rutland in 1792. This was called the Herald of Rutland and was the first newspaper in Rutland. After two months, the building was burned down. Haswell, was granted a lottery by the state, to reimburse his loss.

Haswell was one of the first victims of the Alien and Sedition laws of John Adams' administration, as the result of stoutly defending another man, who was the first in this state to be accused of violating them. Haswell was sentenced to a \$200 fine and two months in jail. He was first imprisoned in Rutland, but after a day or two in this city, his influential friends got him removed to Bennington, where things were more comfortable for him. At the end of his sentence, he was greeted with a celebration and rejoicing. He died in 1816.

According to Mr. Spargo, no man that ever lived in southern Vermont influenced more greatly the cultural development than Anthony Haswell. He was something of an orator in patriotic celebrations and public speeches. As a poet he was a prolific verse writer and wrote many songs and ballads of a patriotic, religious or Masonic character. The Battle of Bennington and episodes in the War of 1812, such as the victory on Lake Champlain, were subjects of his verses. These works did not rate very high from a literary standpoint, but, compared to the other ballard writers of his day, they were well above the average.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, Friday morning, December 25, 1942

SANTA FILLS EMPTY CHRISTMAS BOXES FOR TWO LITTLE GIRLS

Santa Claus found one family of two little girls in Rutland who seemed to have plenty of gifts under the tree - but - the gaily wrapped presents consisted of only empty boxes. Thinking St. Nicholas couldn't possibly "make it" this year to their one-room home, the children had cheerfully wrapped empty boxes, labeled them and placed them under the Christmas tree.

Santa did arrive however, early Christmas Eve, directed there through the Social Service Committee of the Rutland Coordinating Council. He was treated to some chocolate cookies the oldest girl, who is 10 years old, had made as the main course for their Christmas dinner. Santa brought dolls, paintbooks, modeling clay, mittens, warm sleepers, bright red socks, a "mystery" bag of toys and a real Christmas dinner, chicken and all the fixin's.

He had quite a climb up long flights of stairs to reach the one-room home of the children. He puffed and panted, struggling with the bag of toys and the big basket of food, but the gasps of breathless surprise and happiness from the children made his old heart beat normally once more.

Two little girls who had tried to make their own Christmas out of empty boxes and chocolate cookies are having a real honest-to-goodness Christmas today!

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland County Independent, December 15, 1866

ONE WAY TO USE WEALTH

An eminent American, whose name is well known and equally honored on both sides of the Atlantic, has given a practical answer to the question, so often asked any rich men. What shall I do with my money? Having, during a long life of honorable industry, amassed a generous fortune, he does not use it for his own benefit merely. Nor does he expend it in works of charity alone. In London, where the greater portion of his life has been passed, he founded an admirable system of homes for workingmen, the design of which is to furnish the laboring classes with comfortable, clean, and comparatively inexpensive houses, such as are not to be found in any other city. In his native town, in this country, he establishes schools and a library. In Boston, so it has been reported, he intends to found homes for workingmen similar to those in London. We refer to these facts not to praise Mr. Peabody, but to remind our own wealthy men of the duty which they owe their poorer countrymen. Neither London nor Boston presents a greater field for a philanthropic expenditure of money, in the way of increasing the comforts of the working classes, than New York and Brooklyn. There are no cities in the world in which the poor are more wretchedly housed. our whole tenement system is corrupt and degrading; and the community will hold that man in high esteem who shall practically remedy this evil. A great many fine houses are being erected in New York this year.--One "palace" alone will cost, it is stated, not less than a million and a half of dollars. These edifices will no doubt be ornaments to the city, and evidence of the prosperity of our merchants; but who does not feel that whole streets of good homes for our workingmen would be a greater and enduring evidence of the prosperity of the city, and the well-being of its inhabitants?

ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THREE YEARS AGO! Isn't there a lot of similar discussion going on right now as we approach another new year?

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, January 12, 1926

LEGION OPENS NEW COTTAGE ST. HOME

What Legionnaires Must Accomplish in 1926 Told By Dr. J. M. Hamilton

the new American Legion home on Cottage Street was used for the first time for a meeting last night when a large number of members of the American Legion, other ex-service men and members of the Roberts Post of the G.A.R. met last night for a chicken-pie supper cooked and served by the auxiliary.

Those elected to the entertainment committee of the post were Earl Taylor, Roy H. Leonard, Earle T. Tower, Kenneth Bromley and Guy B. Chase. William A. Sargent was made librarian.

Dr. James M. Hamilton, commander, told the objects of the Post for 1926. They are to increase the membership to 300, to open and equip the new home and pay rent, taxes and running expenses, to reduce the post debt by \$1,000 and to have the names of dead ex-service men placed on tablets in the Armory.

The Vermont Department of the Legion will hold its mid-winter conference in the new home February 11 and 12. It was voted to accept the invitation to the Post by the committee of a projected Washington's Birthday patriotic service.

A picture of Grant Cutler of Rutland, who died in the World War,[WW1] has been presented to the home by his family.

LEGION WILL OPEN NEW HOME TONIGHT

An "open house reception" tonight from 8 to 10 o'clock will formally open Rutland Post, American Legion's new home on Cottage Street. Through the kindness of George Ball, paperhanger and Spanish War Veteran, and William Hess, two floors on the ground floor have been entirely decorated without cost to the Legion. The wallpaper was donated by Dr. E.E. Johnson.

The receiving line this evening will consist of local, state and national officers, among them being Post Commander, Dr. James M. Hamilton; Vermont Department Commander, Robert McCuen, Burlington; local Auxiliary Unit President, Mrs. F. C. Andrus; Vermont Auxiliary Department President, Mrs. Agnes Wilcox, St. Johnsbury; National Committeeman, Jack

A. Crowley; Past National Auxiliary Vice President, Mrs. Cornie Glynn
Cocklin; Past Vermont Legion Department Commander, Bert S. Hyland; Post
Adjutant, Charles E. Novak; Post Finance Officer, George A Sabin.

Tidbits From Then and Now

AUTOS TAKE A FORWARD LEAP!

The Rutland News, July 26, 1926

LEAPING LENA HAS 36 IN. WHEEL BASE

Pride of Peerless Fours Performs Many Perilous Stunts

✓ Leaping Lena, the pride of the peerless fours, has been captured by the Vermont Garage Co., and held in captivity at their storage plant on Strongs Avenue. This novel car is a rebuilt Ford with a wheel base of 36 inches. With three or more heavy people in the rear seat it performs many perilous stunts which are worth seeing. With its engine roaring and everybody anxiously waiting to see what will happen, the driver suddenly releases the clutch, the front wheels go skyward and the rear ones downward, and with a mighty roar Lena starts tearing down the street. This is but one of the many stunts that can be done with this tiny wonder.

Perhaps the best exhibition by this car is the tail-spin, with racing engine and people sitting tensely in their seats the mechanical car sinks to the floor, jumps in the air, whirls around a few times and drops back to the ground.

The Rutland News, August 27, 1926

FIRE CHIEF DEVISES WEIRD LOOKING CAR

Will Display Bucking Ford to Visitors At Firemen's Convention Sept. 6

A bucking Ford car is the unusual feature devised by Fire Chief Alfred Koltonski and his men for the Firemen's Convention September 6. By advancing the rear axle about a yard to the front and stripping the car of hood, mudguards and top, it almost balances on the rear axle when the back seat is occupied. To cause the front end to rear high in the air, all that is necessary is to drive it at a moderate rate and then suddenly put on the brake.

This eccentric Lizzie is painted a bright red, with the insignia, "Dingville, No. 1." Various dented fire extinguishers, tea kettles and watering pots are hung about it, to say nothing of a dinky little ladder made of scrap wood attached to the left side of the vehicle. The most formidable part of the whole affair is a large bell on the radiator cap, which bell makes enough noise for an avalanche of fire trucks.

Tidbits From Then and Now

WEIGHTOGRAPH PLANT TO BE MOVED HERE AT ONCE

The Rutland Evening News, February 14, 1927

125 FAMILIES SOON TO COME TO RUTLAND

30 Carloads of Machinery Will Be Brought From St. Louis

Howe Scale Works Will Use Present Buildings Temporarily

While St. Louis business authorities were still insisting today that the Howe Scale Company's Rutland plant would be removed to St. Louis to property adjoining the Weightograph Works, it was definitely stated by a Howe Scale Company official that moving of the Weightograph plant to Rutland will be started within a very short time. It will probably be a month before the task is completed and the St. Louis scale workers come here.

Extensive alterations are to be started at the Howe Company plant in preparation for the installation of the Weightograph machinery. For the present some of the scale works buildings will be used, no plans yet having been announced for the erection of new buildings.

The Weightograph, recently acquired by the Howe Scale Company during a visit to St. Louis by F. G. Riehl and W. E. Seymour, President and Superintendent, respectively, of the Howe Scale Company, is a new invention and an innovation in scales. A feature of the device is that weight is registered instantaneously, whereas on ordinary scales, there is a delay while the indicator waves back and forth.

The coming here of the Weightograph industry will mean a boom to Rutland industry and prosperity. The news has been received, therefore, with general rejoicing here.

The Rutland Evening News, February 15, 1927

ARE YOU FROM MISSOURI?

"WEIGHTOGRAPH PLANT TO BE MOVED HERE AT ONCE"

Such a headline emblazoned the front page of yesterday's issue of The Rutland Evening News and with that announcement all the "poppy-cock" and

“balderdash” that has been circulated here and in St. Louis for the past month or more is put to shame.

It was the Chamber of Commerce in St. Louis that saw, with the purchase of the Weightograph Company here by the Howe Scale Company, a probability that the St. Louis plant would be removed from their fair city, with the resultant loss of another industry--and a growing one too. Accordingly they began to try to convince the officers of the Rutland company that it would be much cheaper to move the Rutland plant to St. Louis than to move the St. Louis plant back to Vermont. The Howe officials looked at them quizzically and said little.

Then an ambitious St. Louis press bureau sent stories into Rutland telling of the PROBABILITY of the Howe Company moving to St. Louis. The Rutland Evening News did not print that story, although it received it at noon one day, realizing that there was probably little real truth in it.

Now, the removal of the St. Louis plant to Rutland seems to quiet all unrest and in itself an assurance that Rutland will not be crippled by the removal of its chief industrial plant. No company is going to move some 30 carloads of machinery all the way from Missouri to Vermont, only to remove them back to St. Louis again within a short time.

No, Rutland may breathe easily again for instead of the city being hurt by what is going to happen, it will greatly benefit by the influx of several hundred Missouri workers and their families. It will mean a slightly increased population and one more expansion move.

And so, if you're from Missouri and have to see to believe, just wait a week or so and then watch the carloads of machinery coming here from that same State of Missouri and maybe then you'll be convinced that the Howe Scale Company is going to stay here after all!

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Evening News, March 22, 1927

BAXTER LIBRARY IS BEING REMODELED

Formal Opening of New Synagogue Will Take Place in May

The equipment formerly used in the Jewish Synagogue on West Street, together with a variety of new furnishings will be moved into the new quarters in the Baxter Memorial Library on Grove Street in about three weeks time, according to Samuel Frank of Lincoln Avenue, who is one of the leaders of the local Jewish Community.

Mr. Frank stated today that a formal opening of the new Synagogue would be held probably during the early part of May, when special ceremonies will be a feature of the dedicatory exercises. No definite program has so far been mapped out.

A doorway is now being cut through the brick wall that separates the entrance of the library from the librarian's room, and a wooden platform has been constructed at the south end of the building, where a pulpit will soon be erected. All new woodwork will be finished in a yellowish tinge to match the surroundings. The building will be thoroughly inspected inside and out and all necessary repairs will be made within the next few weeks, Mr. Frank announced.

March 28, 1927

HOLD LAST SERVICE AT OLD SYNAGOGUE

"There will be no official opening of the Synagogue of the Congregation Adath Israel's new quarters, which will be in the former Memorial Library building on Grove Street, until May at the earliest and probably not until some time in June," said Samuel Frank of Lincoln Avenue, this morning.

Mr. Frank states that there is a considerable amount of construction work to be completed before the library will be fully equipped to serve its new purpose. Several men are now engaged in making various alterations and it is hoped that all necessary work will be done within the next two or three weeks.

The old Synagogue at the corner of West and Elm Streets was used for the last time yesterday when a supper was served in the dining hall. Full

particulars of the official opening and dedication of the newly acquired premises will be issued at a later date.

April 16, 1927

FIRST SERVICES IN NEW SYNAGOGUE THIS WEEKEND

The first service in the new Synagogue of the Congregation Adath Israel will be held tomorrow in observance of the Jewish Feast of the Passover.

A feature in the celebration of the feast is the special Seder service around the festive family board on the first evening of the feast. A special ritual known as the "Haggadah," is read. This ritual contains the story of the redemption from servitude, certain reflections inspired by the memories of old and certain psalms. This is followed by the festal meal after which grace is recited, the additional psalms, the recitation of prayers and the singing of hymns. To this at home service, strangers and homeless are cordially invited.

The manner of observance of the feast is determined largely by Biblical ordinances concerning it. The ceremonies are calculated to bring home the historical event that the feast commemorates, namely, the new freedom vouchsafed to Israel after the long period of oppression endured under Egyptian tyranny.

The eating of unleavened bread is enjoined in the Biblical regulation touching on the observance of the Passover feast. Unleavened bread is characterized as the "bread of affliction," and is also referred to in the Bible as the bread that was unleavened because of the enforced hasty departure from Egypt. In post-Biblical times the earnest desire to keep the injunctions most scrupulously, led the teachers of Israel to enact laws such as the use of special dishes that had been guarded from contact with leaven and reserved only for the Passover season.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, April 7, 1926

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the property owners of the City of Rutland that to have the street in front of their property treated with dust-laying material, they must submit a petition to the Commissioner of Public Works on or before May 1st, 1926, requesting oil or calcium chloride treatment.

A petition must be signed by a majority of the property owners in the block to be treated.

Petitions may be obtained at the City Clerk's office.

No less than a block will be treated. No treatment will be made on verbal requests.

No petitions will be received after May 1st, 1926.

JOSEPH P. FEELEY

Commissioner of Public Works

The Rutland News, April 10, 1926

TO STOP PETTING IN PARKED AUTOMOBILES

Young Couples Enter Cars on Street, Draw Curtains and Forget to Leave Before Owner Returns.

If you must pet, do so in your own automobile, is the command of Fred C. Roberts after hearing complaints that lovelorn youths enter parked cars in front of dance halls and make themselves at home. The Commissioner of Public Safety issued this edict today after several complaints had been received from persons who, upon leaving their cars parked on the streets of the city, find them occupied when they return.

Young girls and boys ranging in age from 14 to 16 are the principal offenders. They enter the cars and carefully draw the curtains.

The police have been instructed to put a stop to the practice.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Evening News, November 18, 1926

TOBACCO, MOLASSES, RUM USED FOR MONEY HERE 75 YEARS AGO

Frank M. Wilson Tells How Trading Was Done With "Barter" Instead of Currency In This Section of Vermont.

Back in the pioneer days, in the middle of the Nineteenth Century, actual gold, silver or paper currency was a rarity in this part of the country and when goods were sold, goods of another sort were generally taken in payment.

This fact was revealed to The Rutland Evening News by Frank M. Wilson, in the second of two interviews on the early history of the marble industry in this part of the country.

"My grandfather, Gilman Wilson, often told me how they used to take loads of marble to Comstock Landing to sell it," said Mr. Wilson. "When they had accumulated a sufficient quantity of the stone, my grandfather would notify his agent in Albany and they would meet at Comstock Landing. The New York men would come on a barge loaded with nails, tobacco, molasses, rum, sugar, cotton goods and other such supplies. Then the bartering would take place and the marble men would return to this part of the State with the miscellaneous goods, taken instead of money, which was very rare in those days. Then the men working the quarries would be paid in the same way, with this 'barter'.

"My grandfather never met with financial failure and it was well along in his career that he went into partnership with a man from Philadelphia, a Mr. Prince. A firm was then organized under the name of 'Fridley Prince and Wilson'. From then on the marble was taken down the mountain to East Dorset and then was shipped to Philadelphia.

"It was interesting to hear of the way they handled the marble. Two yokes were hitched onto the front of the blacks to guide them down the mountainside and two yokes were hitched onto the rear of the heavy old wagon to hold it back. Then all four yokes would haul the wagon back up the hill.

"These old quarries that were worked in those days now appear from the valley on the mountainside to the west of East Dorset. They were last worked by a man by the name of Eaton. They form part of the same vein that is now being worked at Danby.

“Another interesting story was told by my grandfather about the rejoicing and celebration that attended the introduction of the derrick in the marble industry. The 100 or more men, who formed the gang that worked the quarries, were hilarious. They seemed to think that there wouldn’t be any more work to do, once the derricks were installed. They were partly right, I guess, for the work must have been much less arduous after the derricks took over much of the labor.”

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Evening News, April 22, 1927

MRS. COOLIDGE BUYS METHODIST PROPERTY

Site Of Church Razed By Fire Brings \$16,000

Largest Single Business Location Left In Rutland

The Methodist Church property on West Street, near the proposed site of the new Federal Building, was sold yesterday by Leland H. Fish, real estate dealer, to Mrs. Omeron H. Coolidge of Maple Street. The purchase is considered an extremely good one in real estate circles. What Mrs. Coolidge's plans are with regard to the property could not be ascertained. The property is one of the largest single pieces of ground left in the business district and with the construction of a new Federal Building near there considered a certainty within a few years, it is likely that eventually some large business structure will be built on the site.

City of Rutland, Vermont, November 4, 1929

Regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen

Permit was granted to Mrs. Susie D. Cootey to build a 2-story garage for sales and storage at 167-173 West Street, size 65 x 150, materials brick, tile and steel walls, cement floor, slag roof; garage to be located upon the street line and about 5 feet from the nearest building.

Rutland Daily Herald, January 14, 1930

FOUNDATION READY FOR \$70,000 garage

Hudson-Essex Building To Be Occupied In April; Twenty men Working On Job

The concrete foundation and walls of the new \$70,000 garage under construction by the Rutland Hudson-Essex Company at West and Evelyn Streets, one of the largest building projects to be carried on here in 1930, have been completed and it is expected that the company will be able to move into its new quarters during April.

The building, when completed, will be one of the largest in Rutland for automobile storage and sales. It will extend 150 feet back from West Street and will be 65 feet wide. A street along the east side of the building will be used as an entrance for automobiles.

The steel framework for the first story has been placed on the lot and will be used within the next few weeks, it was stated.

The project gives employment at present to more than 20 men.

Rutland Daily Herald, May 5, 1930

WINDOWS BROKEN IN OIL BURNER BLAST

An explosion caused by a newly installed oil burner Saturday blew out several panes of glass and alarmed workmen engaged in the construction of the new garage at 169 West Street, owned by John L. Cootey of North Main Street and Susie D. Cootey of Washington Street.

Mr. Cootey was unable to state last night just what caused the explosion. The burner was enclosed in a room in the extreme rear end of the building. There were about 15 men engaged at work, when the accident occurred. The oil burner was slightly damaged.

The art deco Cootey Garage, that opened in 1930, now being restored for the United States Postal Service.

Tidbits From Then and Now

After publishing last week's article, it was discovered that the finished Cootey building also had a second floor occupant, namely an indoor golf course, called "The Golfin".

The entrance to "The Golfin" was through the downstairs salesroom door of the Cootey building.

Rutland Daily Herald, October 18, 1930

[insert ad here]

NOTE: Do you know what a Golfin is? Looks like a Elfin to me! It says there are real brooks and real hazards providing all the beauties of nature found at an outdoor golf course. Sounds like they really had fun there.

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Tidbits From Then And Now

Rutland Daily Herald, April 8, 1931

THREE SHOPS USE WHISTLE SIGNALS

Agitation May Be Started to Still Blasts; Woodfin Favors Move

A survey made yesterday, following the recent publication of a letter to the Herald referring to the blowing of factory whistles as a source of disturbance, revealed that there are only three factories or shops in the city which blow whistles at the beginning and end of working hours. One of these concerns is in favor of abolishing the whistles entirely on the ground that they are a nuisance and unnecessary.

Howard F. Woodfin, president of the Lincoln Iron Works, which has used the same whistle every working day since the early 1860s at 6.40, 7, 12, 12.40, 1 and 5 o'clock, expressed himself as being heartily in favor of doing away entirely with shop whistles. He stated that they are unnecessary at the iron works, since there is an auto-call system within the shops.

Wayne N. Temple, secretary-treasurer of Temple Brothers Marble Company, another of the mills which blows whistles, stated that for the present, at least, that company would continue to use its steam whistle, since there is no auto-call system within the shops and the blasts constitute the only means for calling men to work. He also said that he did not believe the whistle to be a nuisance throughout the city.

G. L. R. French, vice president of the Rutland Railroad Company whose shop whistle blows regularly, said that it is a custom which has prevailed for many years so that the workmen have come to depend upon it.

The Howe Scale Company, Patch Wegner Company, Manning Manufacturing Company and the Rutland Fire Clay Company have discontinued blowing their whistles, some of them several years ago.

And today, 79 years later, we sometimes complain about the fire whistle blowing at 8:50 AM & PM!

Now a Vermont Legislative bill wants to limit windmill noise to a whisper.

My concern is, where do I complain to get the animal kingdom to limit the "clouds" of crows recently gathering around Pine Hill and "Cawing" loudly.

They appear early morning and evening. What will the Legislature propose to do about these noises from the animal kingdom?

Oh, well, maybe I'm just whistling "Dixie".

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, August 24, 1926

FIELD RELATES HISTORY OF RUTLAND POSTOFFICE

The history of the Post Office in Rutland and of the United States in general was the subject of Fred A. Field's talk before the Exchange Club at the Berwick Hotel.

In 1792, Frederick Hill was appointed the first Federal postmaster of Rutland. It was in 1810, that the first post office was established in the red store on Main Street, with W. D. Smith as postmaster. In 1836, the office was moved to the County Court House and T. J. Ormsbee was postmaster.

The post office was again moved, in 1841, to the bookstore on the site of Mrs. Ella Hollister's house on Center Street. At this time, Jesse Gove was postmaster. Soon after this, it was again moved to the Town Hall, which was on the site of F. D. White's garden on Washington Street and John Cain was postmaster.

The Federal Building on Center Street housed the office in 1857 and in 1889, Station A was established in the north half of J. C. Dunn's store and remained there until moved to its present place.

"The prospects are now very bright for a new building in the near future" said Mr. Field, "Thanks to Congressman Brigham."

[Previously, The Rutland News, December 16, 1925 noted:

AGENT FAVORS NEW POSTOFFICE HERE AFTER INSPECTION Is Silent On Library Swap

A report favoring a new post office here has been submitted to the Treasury Department by a Government construction engineer. The question as to whether the engineer gave a favorable report on the proposed exchange of the Rutland Free Library for the Federal Court building is problematical. The principal obstacle to the trade is that the present United States Court House is valuable. The building is entirely adequate for all the government offices and it would cost the Government a large sum to construct a building here to replace the present one.]

During the first year of the post office in Rutland, the receipts amounted to \$37.67. In the last year, they were over \$100,000. In 1886, the Rutland free delivery was established with six carriers. There are now 15.

From 1711 to 1775, the post office of the Colonies was mismanaged by the English postmaster general here, the first of these was Thomas Neal, who lived in Virginia. The mail was, for the most part, entrusted to ship managers, who left the letters at coffee houses.

Benjamin Franklin was the first American postmaster general. In his time, it cost from six to 25 cents to send a letter. There were only 75 post offices in the country and 2000 miles of mail routes. The mail was carried by stage or post carriages at a rate of 5 miles an hour. The regular mail trains now run at 40 miles per hour, and the airplane is coming to occupy a very important place in the postal system. The salaries of postmasters now range from \$1.02 a year up to \$8,000.

In 1865, the registry system was established. Just a few years ago, \$20,000,000 in gold was shipped across the continent by the United States Post Office, the largest shipment of registered mail ever known.

Stamps were adopted in 1847 in this country and sold for five and ten cents. Brattleboro, however, beat the United States by getting out a stamp of it's own in 1846.

Vermont had its own postal system in 1784 with Anthony Haswell of Bennington in charge.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, September 20, 1921

MANY RUTLAND HOUSES BUILT ON CITY PROPERTY

Many houses in the City of Rutland are built on land that does not belong to the owners of the buildings, The Rutland News has learned on the most reliable authority. The cause dates back decades and perhaps generations and is due to faulty engineering and the destruction of reference points taken when various parts of the city were laid out.

On Park Street, for example, there are no records anywhere in the Public Works Department that give any lines at all with reference to the street and city property. There is no known way of telling where the city's property leaves off and the individual landholder's property begins.

All of Main Street is confused and many persons there believe they own property that is not theirs. There are three specific instances already known to the Public Works Department, where parts of houses actually rest on city property. These are on South Main, Terrill and Nichols Streets. Deeds in many cases have been taken from angles at street corners that, during the course of years, have changed materially.

On the other hand the city has, in some instances, infringed on private property. The Baxter place, on Grove Street, is an example. The Baxter property actually extends well into the sidewalk on the east side of Grove Street.

It is also believed by the Department officials, although in many instances not yet conclusively proven, that parts of the houses of several of Rutland's most prominent citizens rest on property which is not theirs.

[And we thought it was only on the old back roads that this happened.]

The Rutland News, June 9, 1925

WATERING TROUGH TO BE PRESERVED

City officials have decided not to remove the watering trough at Evelyn Street and Merchants Row. It will be continued as a drinking place for horses and dogs. There was talk that it might be removed, but Commissioner of

Public Works Feeley explained the situation to the Board of Aldermen and the board adopted a resolution that the watering trough be continued.

It is one of the old landmarks of the city and during the last 50 years thousands of horses have visited the trough for the purpose of drinking.

During the last three years only a few horses have used the drinking trough, principally because the automobiles have so generally supplanted horses as a means of conveyance.

Farmers' horses and horses of work teams, however, still get pleasure from the trough, which caused the city council to vote against its discontinuance.

[I'm sure the horses were happy about this.]

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Evening News, March 31, 1927

WATERSHED BOUGHT FOR \$43,000

Rutland Taxes Not to Be Affected, It Is Said

The City of Rutland purchased the much-discussed 2000-acre Wheeler property at Mendon for a water shed, it was learned by The Evening News at noon. The purchase price was \$43,000

The consummation of the deal will bring to an end a long series of interwoven events, including the attempt of a syndicate of Rutland men, headed by James Creed, to get \$45,000 for land, upon which they had obtained an option, this price having been boosted from \$35,000 originally asked by Edward Dyer Wiltsie, before his option expired and the syndicate obtained its option.

It was believed that the city's committee had definitely abandoned the project of making the purchase, when the State Board of Health looked into the matter and one of the representatives met with the committee here two weeks ago; after which meeting the State Board issued a bulletin announcing that "after an inspection by the State Board of Health of said Rutland City water supply, rules and regulations will be promulgated for the protection of the water supply of said Rutland City under authority of Chapter 271, Sections 6311-24 G. L. inclusive."

The resolution called for notification of its contents to "the City of Rutland, the Wheeler Syndicate, and others owning property on the watershed."

The committee includes Alderman George M. Goddard, chairman, Mayor Arthur W. Perkins, City Attorney Jack Crowley, Richard H. Royce, commissioner of public works, H. O. Carpenter, Dennis J. Anthony, Alderman Arthur C. Grover and Alderman Esme A. C. Smith.

It was stated this afternoon by a member of the committee that none of the \$43,000 would be raised by taxation. Part of the purchase price will come out of the city water fund and the balance will come from a surplus that exists in the city's general fund.

It is also planned to cut about \$7000 from the purchase price by the cutting of ash timber on the property valued at about that sum. This loss of trees will

not, it is stated, interfere with the Rutland water supply and will not affect the value of the watershed.

April 11, 1927

FISHING IN WATER SHED BROOKS IS BANNED BY STATE

Fishing in the numerous natural trout streams that feed the city's water supply has been banned forever by the State Board of Health.

At a meeting of the State Board of Health held April 6, it was voted that an order be issued as follows:

"Under authority of Section 6312 General Laws of Vermont, all fishing is hereby prohibited in the streams of the Rutland water supply.

The city of Rutland is, therefore now empowered to post all these streams under order of the State Board of Health. The board further expressed its opinion that it has no objection to the removal of legal fish by means of traps, seines or other contrivances under the supervision of the State Fish and Game officials."

The order covers all Wheelerville and Mendon brooks, Beaver Brook and numerous other large and small brooks, generally speaking, situated on either side of the main road between Rutland and the top of the mountain.

The Rutland County Fish and Game Association, it has been pointed out, may use these brooks to rear trout. The process would be to net the fish out as they matured and transplant them in other brooks where they would be available for catching in the usual way.

Tidbits From Then and Now

With Easter right around the corner, I figured I would find out how the occasion was celebrated back in 1920. Much to my surprise I discovered that Easter in 1920 occurred on April 4, just as it does this year 2010. I found nothing about parades etc. because The Rutland News was not published on Sunday, but I found an article from the Monday paper that was quite interesting.

The Rutland News, Monday April 5, 1920

DOES HIGH COST OF LIVING REDUCE NUMBER OF MARRIAGES?

Dealers in house furnishings, who naturally find newly married couples among their best customers, have made the statement that there has been a falling off in the number of marriages in this city since the cost of living mounted to the present unprecedented proportions. Statistics, however, indicate that the present figures will practically balance those of pre-war days and employers of labor express the views that, because of the fat envelopes received by them, the average wage-earner—outside of office men, traveling salesmen and those in a few other callings—is in as good a position to support a family as in normal times.

During the first three months of 1920 there were 21 marriage licenses taken out at the office of City Clerk H. B. Whittier and this was three more than during the same period in 1913 which was prior to the time that the war in Europe began to affect the cost of commodities in the United States. During the entire year of 1919 there were 115 licenses taken out which was only 16 less than in 1913. The year 1917 was ahead of the pre-war period, with 137 licenses, probably because of the large number of war brides. But in 1918, when many young men were at the front, the total fell to 89.

If the balance of 1920 maintains the record of the first quarter, the marriages of the 12 months will be equal in number to pre-war days. The average for the year is always higher than January, February and March would indicate because the Lenten period, in which practically no Catholic people are wedded, comes then.

RUTLAND NEWS [FROM NEXT PAGE]

The ending of lent, makes business for Master Cupid. The following marriage licenses were taken out this morning, at the office of the city Clerk: Richard A. Sheppard of 103 South Main Street and Miss Bessie S. Wood of 103 South Main Street; Emile E. Chamberland of Forest Street and Miss Catherine M.

Bruten of Spruce Street; George T. Donovan of Forest Street and Miss Mary M. Cannon of River Street.

As I finished this article it suddenly dawned upon me, my parents were married on April 12, 1920.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, April 17, 1925

BANDMEN TO PAY FOR OWN UNIFORMS

If members of the Rutland City Band are to have new uniforms this season, it is probable that they will have to pay for them out of their own pockets. The band has held two entertainments in an effort to raise money for the uniform fund, but neither affair contributed much to the organization's coffers.

The concert given by the band at the armory last winter netted \$28, but the band dance at the armory last evening, at which a radio set was sold to Miss Margaret Avery, resulted in a deficit. Sale of the radio netted about \$125 but that was about the only source of revenue, for only 10 couples attended the dance.

The band uniforms are to cost \$900. Consequently each member of the band will have to dig deeply into his own treasury. The average yearly pay of a member of the band is \$85. This includes his earnings from the open-air concerts, the Rutland Fair engagement and all other band work.

The Rutland News, May 6, 1926

CONSIDER CEMENT FOR BANDSTAND

The new bandstand that the Aldermen voted to construct in Main Street Park at an expense not to exceed \$1500, will probably be constructed of cement concrete. Although the Aldermen voted the proposition, an appropriation for the funds must come from Mayor Dunn.

Commissioner of Public Works, Joseph Feeley said that he did not believe it would be a very great expense and that the Public Works Department could furnish materials and labor.

The aldermen are of the opinion that a cement stand would be a big improvement over the present wooden structure.

The Rutland News, May 20, 1926

DEED HALTS WORK ON NEW BANDSTAND

City Attorney Jack A. Crowley has rendered an opinion that the city may construct a new bandstand in Main Street Park and not violate the terms of the original deed, that provided that any building be erected, the property would revert back to the original owners.

Investigation concerning the original deed of the property shows that in 1790 it was deeded by Thomas Hale and Nathan Osgood to Samuel Williams and other officials of the Town of Rutland. Mr. Hale received 10 pounds and Mr. Osgood, 18 pounds for the deed.

The deed states that the town is to have and to hold the premises for the sole and exclusive purpose of a public green or common and ever to be kept free from any encroachments of buildings, fences or yards of any private person or persons.

The existing City bandstand was erected in the park about 23 years ago. Previous to that time the bandstand was in the Depot Park.

Rutland Daily Herald, May 19, 1931

BAND PAYMENTS UNCHANGED

After weeks of investigation, the Park and Playground Committee submitted a lengthy report to regulate the band concerts here—and then found that their work was out of order. President Esme A. C. Smith, stated that all that the committee had power to do was select the band for the concert—not recommend the sum to be paid or say how or when the concerts are to be played. When the board was making appropriations for the year in January, a sum equal to one-half cent on the dollar of the grand list was appropriated for the band—with the mayor having power to regulate the concerts.

The committee had recommended that the concerts should not start until June 14 and that they be given Thursday and Sunday evenings thereafter until and including August 23; that no concerts begin while rain is falling and that the concerts be halted if rain should start, even though the weather was fair at the opening.

As the matter now stands the band will function on the same basis it has in previous years.

And so the “Band Plays On”.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 19, 1931

HOUSE TO BE MOVED FROM MADISON ST. TO JACKSON AVE.

The task of moving a full-size house and annex through the streets in the center of the city will be started Monday morning when a residence now standing at 10 Madison Street starts its journey to a new location at 35 Jackson Avenue.

John Burton was given permission by the board of aldermen at its last meeting to move the house, which is 24 feet wide, 34 feet long and 24 feet high. The house will be hauled by a truck through Madison and South Main Streets and along Jackson Avenue.

Burton stated yesterday that the moving operations, which are expected to require four days, would not seriously block traffic except when the turns are made on and off Main Street. Only one electric wire will have to be cut along the entire route, others can be lifted to a sufficient height to allow the house to pass underneath. About two days will be required to move the annex, which is 16 feet wide, 20 feet long and 20 feet high.

The house was removed from a lot, which was purchased by Albert W. Edson of 8 Madison street for the purpose of extending the lawn about his home. A garage, which was also on the property, was moved next door to the property of James J. Hanrahan, 12 Madison Street. A. Newman purchased the house, which is to be moved next week. Burton was required by the city to furnish a \$1,000 bond to cover any damages caused by the moving process.

I. F. Lassar has been granted permission by the board of aldermen to move a building from the Delaware & Hudson yards to 138 Baxter Street to be used for a garage and storehouse. This building will be moved in sections by motor truck.

Rutland Daily Herald, September 22, 1931

MOTOR TRUCK USED TO MOVE BUILDING

The story and a half house, which was constructed on the lot at 10 Madison Street, is now en route to a new location at 35 Jackson Avenue. The house is in the center of Madison Street a few yards from the intersection of Madison and South Main.

A motor truck is being used as pulling power as the structure, which is 24 feet high slowly, creeps along on planking and rollers. It is expected that in three days more the house will have reached its new location.

Another section of the building, somewhat smaller than the part now en route, will be moved in two days' time, John Burton, contractor, stated.

With so much hi-tech equipment around today, do you think we could move something like that and keep it in one piece and not disturb traffic?

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, January 23, 1923

DUNN OPPOSES MERGER OF 2 FIRE STATIONS

Mayor Dunn is opposed to consolidation of the two Rutland Fire Department stations. He said today that he had investigated the situation, talked with chiefs of the fire departments of several cities in New England, and everyone voiced objection to the principle of the proposal to do away with the Center Street station.

A resolution adopted at the last meeting of the Board of Aldermen, leaves the matter in the hands of the Fire Committee and the Mayor to investigate and report at a future meeting.

Mayor Dunn is well versed on the Rutland Fire Department. He has been in close touch with the Department during the time he has served as Mayor and prior to that, he was head of the department for many years.

It is believed in insurance circles that the proposed consolidation might mean increasing instead of decreasing the insurance rates of the City and that the New England Fire Insurance Exchange would be opposed to it.

The Board of Aldermen is divided on the subject.

The Rutland News, December 24, 1925

MAY CONSOLIDATE FIRE STATIONS; QUARTERING BOTH AT CITY HALL

As a measure of economy, Rutland Fire Station No. 2, located on Center Street, may in the near future be transferred to the fire department quarters at City Hall. Fire Station No. 2 will be turned over to the school authorities. The Finance Committee and the Fire Committee will consider the consolidation plans. They will investigate the present equipment and needs of the Department, including a new ladder truck.

Several aldermen have expressed an opinion favoring the consolidation of the two companies. It would require additional sleeping quarters at Fire Station No. 1. If the courtroom in the City Hall is abandoned, this room and the large room, used as a jury room, would furnish the department additional sleeping quarters at very little expense.

It is also pointed out that at present Station No. 1 answers about two-thirds of the calls and the change would give more men and equipment for each fire call.

The Rutland News, January 25, 1926

KOLTONSKI AGAINST FIRE CONSOLIDATION

Fire Chief A. H. Koltonski, said that in his opinion, the consolidation of the two stations would decrease the efficiency of the department without any compensating benefit. He pointed out that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been expended in the erection of homes in the north and northeast sections of the city and Station 2 served much of this locality. He also pointed out that there was little room at the present Station 1 quarters for the housing of the Station 2 equipment.

The Rutland News, January 28, 1926

ROBERTS AGAINST FIRE DEPT. MERGER

Commissioner of Public Safety, Fred C. Roberts, said that he was not in favor of the proposed consolidation of the two Rutland Fire Departments at the City Hall headquarters. By virtue of his office, Commissioner Roberts is head of the Fire and Police Departments.

He believes a consolidation of the two fire departments would result in the New England Fire Insurance Exchange increasing the fire insurance rates of Rutland rather than lowering them.

Some years ago, he said, engineers of the New England Exchange, following an inspection of Rutland, suggested that a third station should be constructed in the city. He also pointed out that the consolidation would be a very expensive proposition for the city, as it would mean making over the City Hall headquarters.

The consolidation eventually happened when the Koltonski Fire Station was built next to the old Fire Station 2 on Center Street in 1969.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland County Independent, October 27, 1866

MUSICAL: The undersigned feeling the necessity of a permanent organized Musical Society in Rutland, respectfully invite all who feel an interest in the advancement of vocal and instrumental music in the community to attend a meeting to be held at the Reading Room, Bardwell House on Tuesday evening, October 30th, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of organizing a Musical Society for this object. Rutland has musical talent enough to ensure the success of such a society. Let all musically inclined attend such meeting and organize a society that shall do honor to the town and State.

Rutland, October 26th, 1866

Norman Seaver, Leland Howard, D.E. Page, Francis A. Fisher, E. L. Cardell, L.A. Morse, Wm. A. Brunett, Geo. A. Tuttle, James H. Dyer, H.W. Kingsley, George A. Mietzeke, J.D. Green, H. A. Sawyer, A. H. Cobb, Wm. D. Goodnow, C. A. Parkhurst, James Merrell, E.N. Merriam, H. F. Field, D.J. Newland, W. H. B. Owen, G. H. Cheney, Newman Weeks, James K. McLean, John Strong, B.H. Burt, Charles E. Mussey, H. P. Cochran.

November 3, 1866

MUSICAL: Pursuant to a call published in our paper last week the "musical talent" of Rutland assembled at the Bardwell House on Tuesday evening and organized a Musical Society by the appointing William A. Burnett, President, and Lucius A. Morse, secretary. Geo. A. Mietzke, Wm. D. Goodnow, John N. Baxter, H. F. Field and D.J. Newland were appointed a committee to draft a constitution and by-laws. A. H. Cobb was appointed committee to procure room for rehearsals.

[Take particular notice of the names of the people involved in the Musical Society. NOT ONE WOMAN!! This takes me to another note from the newspaper dated November 17, 1866.]

LADIES SHOULD READ NEWSPAPERS

It is a great mistake in female education to keep a young lady's time devoted to the fashionable literature of the day. If you would qualify her for conversation, you must give her something to talk about—give her education with this actual world and its transpiring events.—Urge her to read the

newspapers and become familiar with the present character and improvements of our race. History is of some importance; but the past world is dead and we have nothing to do with it. [Ignore that statement] Our thoughts and our concerns should be for the present world, to know what it is and improve the condition of it. Let her have an intelligent opinion and be able to sustain a conversation concerning the mental, moral, political and religious improvement of our times.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland County Independent, November 10, 1866

METEORIC SHOWER

A splendid meteoric shower is advertised by the astronomers to come off about the 12th. Such supernal fireworks are said to form grand displays once every thirty-three years. The last was witnessed in Nov. 1833. The last one "was especially distinguished by the immense number of moving meteors to be seen at once and for the remarkable size and splendor of many of them. Among the myriads of blazing meteors visible on that occasion, meteors one was seen at several places on this continent. It was recognized by several observers by its extraordinary size and brilliance, as well as by the length of time its train remained visible, which was about ten minutes. The luminous train seemed to follow the meteor in a serpentine course and finally disappear in a vast nebulous cloud, many times larger than the moon, and which continued to move onward with a velocity greater than the clouds."

The best time for observing the "shower" is said to be from midnight to daybreak. In 1833, meteorites penetrated the surface of the earth to the depth of several feet, but the danger is not so great as an exhibition of terrestrial fire works. The theory that meteoric showers are caused by heavenly bodies going "on a bender" is incorrect. The causes of their eccentric movements and those of man are not analogous.

Rutland County Independent, November 17, 1866

METEORIC SHOWER

A special dispatch from England states that 12,000 meteors and falling stars were discernable at Greenwich Observatory Tuesday night and Wednesday morning. The display was remarkable brilliant, some of the meteors exceeding in size stars of the first magnitude and appearing in all the varied colors of the rainbow.

The Rutland Daily Herald, Wednesday April 21, 2010

NATIONAL NEWS

Welcome Home: The space shuttle Discovery lands on Kennedy Space Center's Runway in Cape Canaveral, Fla., on Tuesday.

Wouldn't the folks of the 19th Century be amazed that over one hundred years later, a "space" machine can return to earth with a crew that had been in space working around those stars and meteors.

#569

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, May 14, 1925

FIELD PROLIFIC AS AN INVENTOR

Local Man Has Taken Out Patents On Many Devices Having Market Value

The possessor of inventive genius has more to contend with than ordinary persons and before he has acquainted himself with the wiles of human nature and the propensity of his fellow men to take as their own what is rightfully his, a fortune may have slipped through his fingers.

Bertram L. Field, clock repairer of this city, has already patented a number of articles and like many fellow inventors, has been disillusioned in intrusting his "brain child" to the hands of another before it has been duly patented in his name by the federal government. Even then, the inventor is not absolutely safe, Mr. Field claims.

Many years ago Mr. Field conceived the idea of a toy. The principle of the article was to arrange a mechanical contrivance that would automatically propel a mouse up a stick. He perfected it, but, not being familiar with patents, never realized anything from it, although a short time later a similar toy appeared on the market and had a remarkable sale.

The first article that Mr. Field patented was a contrivance to be placed upon wagon shafts that made it possible to remove the shafts. The idea came into his head when, one day, he noticed that it was necessary for liverymen to lift the shafts to hooks suspended from the ceilings. Not only was it unhandy, but also, it required considerable more room than was necessary. Mr. Field invented an article that made it possible to remove the shafts entirely that enabled the liverymen to place them under the wagons or sleighs as the case might be.

During the war [WWI], Mr. Field invented a game called "No Man's Land" that attained considerable popularity. He has also invented a booklet in which newspaper and other clippings may be kept systematically; a file cabinet for photograph films and an instrument for lifting hot dishes from stoves.

Possibly his most successful invention is a chair-back for bleachers at sporting events. When cement bleachers came into use, however, his chair was no longer practicable so he made changes in the original model to make it adaptable to the new style bleachers. He received the patent last February

and is now waiting to hear the results of investigations that several firms are making on the article with the view of purchasing the patent.

The same holds true today, 85 years later. Don't offer the product of your imagination until you have received the patent.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, April 29, 1931

AUTO BUILDING AT FAIRGROUNDS BURNS; LOSS FULLY \$75,000

Flames Menace Entire Pleasure Ground

Fire of undetermined origin about 4 o'clock this morning totally destroyed the huge automobile building at the fairgrounds, endangered several nearby houses and for a while threatened to sweep through the several or more valuable buildings on the north side of the grounds.

The building housed the Rutland Miniature Golf Course, valued at more than \$15,000.

Help was summoned from West Rutland and Proctor to assist the Rutland department. So great was the start of the fire that it was impossible to check it.

Discovered by Miss Marjorie Rousseau of 167 North Main Street shortly before 4 o'clock, the fire roared through the building in less than an hour.

Firemen, summoned by a box alarm, noting that it would be impossible to save the huge building, erected only a few years ago, concentrated their efforts on saving houses on Park Street and South Main Street.

Houses at 9 and 11 Park Street and at 167 South Main Street were set ablaze by huge sparks, pouring from the burning building and it was necessary for a while to keep streams of water on those houses to save them.

Buildings on the fairgrounds were badly scorched and so intense was the heat that a number of windows in the structures were cracked and broken.

The fire destroyed two of the main power circuits of the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, bringing darkness to hundreds of houses in the city in the vicinity of Strongs Avenue, Killington Avenue and even as far as Baxter Street and Library Avenue.

The fire department's alarm was able to ring out only one round, due to its destruction. When the firemen arrived at Park Street at 3:55 o'clock the automobile building was a solid sheet of flame and it looked as though every

house on Park Street and every building on the north side of the fairgrounds might go.

Fire Chief Alfred H. Koltonski, after sizing up the situation, decided that help was desperately needed and telephoned both Proctor and West Rutland.

The Rutland department laid six lines of hose and for nearly an hour the department members had a desperate fight to save the houses on Park Street and South Main Street.

The new building built at the entrance of the fairgrounds, where the ticket selling is taken care of during the fair, caught fire several times, but each time the blaze was extinguished.

The flames illuminated the sky and could be seen miles away. Firemen in West Rutland and Proctor said they saw the illumination from the fire as they went out to answer the alarm.

The northbound sleeper, scheduled to arrive at about 4 o'clock, was halted and passengers aroused by the roar of the flames and the fire sirens, arose from their sleeping berths to see the flames.

A huge crowd, all attracted by the glare from the fire gathered shortly after the alarm was turned in. The large sparks that were thrown out from the building, started fires in hats, coats and other garments worn by the spectators.

All that was left of the automobile building, which had the largest floor surface of any building in the state, was a few pieces of wooden supports, the rest of the place having been burned to the ground.

Fire Chief Koltonski was unable to state early this morning just what in his opinion caused the fire. He stated that the building was heated by an oil burning system, but was not able to state whether that had anything to do with the origin.

The miniature golf course was installed in the building early in the winter and was in use yesterday.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Interesting notes from other papers dated June 26, 1934

\$100 ON HIS HEAD

The Rutland Herald's \$100-panther is still enjoying his freedom, but two black bears, which have been terrifying the heights of Mendon on a destructive career of cattle-killing, were run to earth, lured into traps set by Arthur Longley, experienced woodsman. Somebody may yet win that panther money. ---St. Albans Messenger.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Two Mendon Bears Pay for Offense Committed By Another Animal

The Mendon bear hunters, seekers after the monster that has slain three 700-pound heifers in the past few weeks, have bagged two bears, but the evidence that they have caught the culprit is against them. The animals trapped weighed 240 and 200 pounds, respectively, and if either made the eight-inch tracks found around the carcass of one of the slain heifers it possessed exceedingly large feet for one of that weight. Furthermore, there is room for logical doubt that bears in the 200-pound class would attack cattle. When the stomach of one of the animals was examined it was found to contain ants, grubs and vegetable matter, but no beef, and an important link in the case of the Farmers vs. Bruin was thereby lost.

The case apparently was one of mistaken identity and the bears found themselves in a situation parallel to that of the innocent bystander who was shot to death in one of the attempts of the police to catch John Dillinger. However, it may prove a lesson to the real killer, and the two skins ought to make good rugs, anyway, ---Brattleboro Reformer.

#572

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 17, 1930

COOLIDGE TO WRITE HISTORY OF U.S. TO BE ENGRAVED ON MOUNTAIN

Calvin Coolidge is to write a history of the United States with an assured popularity for 5000 centuries.

It is to be as brief and terse as the former president's conversation. Although Mr. Coolidge is one of the highest paid writers per word, he will not receive a cent for the narrative.

The former president, according to the Mt. Rushmore National Memorial Association, has accepted an invitation to write historical data to be engraved beside the colossal figures of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt upon the granite face of the Black Hills Mountain. Mt. Rushmore is near Keystone, SD.

The history will be Mr. Coolidge's contribution to the memorial that he dedicated during his summer vacation in the Black Hills in 1927.

The Coolidge words, 500, or fewer if the author chooses to further condense the life of the country from the Declaration of Independence to this time, will be five or more inches deep, and high enough to be read miles away.

Geologists estimate the rate of erosion on the granite escarpment of Mt. Rushmore is an inch in 100,000 years. Unless radical earth changes take place, or future progress decrees the removal of Mt. Rushmore, the memorial should endure more than 500,000 years.

Gutzon Borglum, sculptor of the project, hopes to have the Washington and Jefferson figures ready for a formal unveiling next July 4. Each of the four figures will be 420 feet tall. The tablet of Mr. Coolidge's history will be 80 feet high and 120 feet wide.

The frowning wall of Mt. Rushmore upon which the memorial is to be scratched, is 1000 feet high. The sides of the letters fashioning Mr. Coolidge's words, facing westward, will be gilded so that the setting sun falling upon them will give brilliance to the story of the United States.

Rutland Daily Herald, February 4, 1930

COOLIDGE'S GIANT HISTORY IN STONE DISPLAYS 8 EVENTS

Former President Coolidge's tabloid history for the Mt. Rushmore, S.D. memorial is to be as limited in historical references as it will be sparing in words

Eight events, considered the most epochal in the evolution of the colonies are listed for inscription. These were selected by the design committee of the memorial commission.

The names of Washington and Lincoln may not appear in the engraved history; the names of Jefferson and Roosevelt likely will, while Mr. Coolidge's name is certain to be etched in the granite wall of the Black Hill's peak.

The memorial will consist of colossal figures of Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln and Roosevelt, and the Coolidge history, hewn upon the 1000-foot side of the mountain.

The eight events that Mr. Coolidge will touch upon include:

July 4, Declaration of Independence; 1787, framing of the Constitution; 1803, Louisiana Purchase; 1846, admission of Texas as a state; 1848, Oregon boundary settlement; 1849, admission of California; 1865, Civil War ends; 1907, completion of the Panama Canal.

Mr. Coolidge's wordage is limited to the number that can be inscribed in a space 90 feet by 130 feet and in such dimensions that they may be read three miles away. Those conditions would limit the history to 500 words.

ADDENDUM: National Park Service, Mount Rushmore

Borglum's original plans for a tabloid history had only the numbers 1776 carved before problems with the rock of Jefferson's head, begun on Washington's right, caused a change in plans. The tabloid was abandoned and Lincoln's head was carved in its place.

Calvin Coolidge was to write the History of the United States that would be carved on the Entablature, but he and Borglum disagreed on how the history should be worded. Calvin Coolidge died in 1933 before any definite wording was decided.

A national essay contest was launched by the Hearst newspapers in 1934. The Grand Prize winner was John Edward Bradley. On July 4, 1971, William Andrew Burkett, the College Division winner, donated a bronze plaque of his award-winning essay, written in 1934 while attending Omaha University Law School. The plaque is a 560-word "History of the United States of America, 1776-1904" and now stands on the Borglum View Terrace at the memorial.

#573

Tidbits From Then and Now

Contributed by Bill Powers

Rutland Daily Herald, October 16, 1919

RUTLAND'S NAME WAS ONCE SOCIALBOROUGH

Historical Scrapbook Tells of Petition to Make IT County Seat.

TYRON WAS GOVERNOR

From an historical scrapbook kept by Chauncey K. Williams, and now in the collections owned by Charles E. Tuttle of this city, The Herald submits the following data concerning the history of Rutland while it was still a part of the Province of New York.

It is to be noted that Rutland was called Socialborough and the surrounding towns all bore names different from their present ones. This particular clipping gives a petition to the Governor of New York asking that Rutland be made the County Seat and historical notes on this petition that were added by some later writer.

NOTE: The Petition that appeared in the Herald was edited for this article from the original that appears in *Documentary History of New York, Vol.3.* Following it are the notes that were added in the October 16, 1919 newspaper article – HKD

To His Excellency Wm. Tryon Captain General and Governor in Chief on and over the Province of New York and the Territories depending thereon in America, Chancellor and Vice Chancellor of the same.

The petition of the subscribers who are interested in the townships of Socialborough, Halesborough, Newry, Richmond, Kelso, Monckton and Durham in the County of Charlotte,
Most humbly Sheweth:

That your petitioners being informed that the appointment of the township or place for holding the courts in the County of Charlotte will soon come under Your Excellency's consideration, they beg leave most humbly to suggest:

That the township of Socialborough is nearly central to that part of the country, which will probably remain a separate County when the Northern part of the this province becomes populous (to wit) from Batten Kill, to an East Line from the mouth of the Otter Creek, comprising a district of about 75 miles in length.

That the roads leading Northward from the Massachusetts Bay, and Westward from New Hampshire, both pass thro' the said Township; which your Petitioners conceive a strong proof of its being easy of Access.

That the township, and the Lands in its Neighborhood, are remarkably fertile, and pleasantly situated, on a fine river called Otter Creek, which for many Miles is navigable with bateaus, and would be throughout, but for the obstruction of the falls.

That from the best information your Petitioners are able to collect, tho' the settlement began within three years, there are already thirty five Families in Socialborough, and twenty more have made improvements, and are expected to remove thither the ensuing spring; the chief of whom have agreed to take Title for their farms under this Government.

That in the three townships of Durham, Grafton and Chesterfield, which adjoin each other and extend from Socialborough Southward, there are Ninety six families actually settled, who all hold their Estates under this Government.

That in Chatham, which is the next Town adjoining Chesterfield toward the South, there are settled Fifteen families; and in Eugene, which adjoins it on the West, Forty. In Princetown, which adjoins Chatham on the South, Seventy Families; and in West Camden which adjoins it on the West, Twelve Families.

That theses making in the whole near two hundred Heads of Families, chiefly live at a convenient distance from Socialborough, and the most remote of them not exceeding Forty miles; and have already the advantage of a tolerable road, thro' which loaded carts have passed from Socialborough to Albany the last summer.

That Col. Reid's settlement, which is further North, and which consists of about Fifteen Families, is at no greater distance from Socialborough than thirty Miles and Major Skene's within Twenty Miles.

That from theses circumstance your Petitioners hope it will appear that this Township is well situated for the County Town, and not only convenient to the greater part of the present Inhabitants, but will continue to be so to the County in general (as far as to the East Line from the mouth of Otter Creek), when it becomes populous and fully improved.

That the present Inhabitants of the said County are very poor, and unable, but by their Labor, to contribute anything towards the Building of a Court House and Goal, nor is any Provision made for that purpose by law.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray, that, unless your Excellency shall judge some other place to be more proper, the County Town of the said County may be fixed at Socialborough in which case your Petitioners are willing, and do engage, to raise and pay all the money, which shall be necessary for erecting a convenient Court House and Goal for the said County.

And your Petitioners shall ever pray, &c.

Chas McEvers, Hamilton Young, Wm. Sheriff, Wm. Lupton, Rich'd Maitlandt, Atty., Jacob Walton, Theophylact Bache, W. McAdam, J: W: Harris Cruger, Henry Van Vleck, G. Maturin, Gerard Walton, Wm. Walton, Stepn Kemble, John DeLancy, Theod's VanWyck, James Phyn, Fred de Puyster for self and for Doctr. Jno. Jones, Isaac Roosevelt, Adam Gilkrist, Jacobus Van Zandt, Saml Deall, Fred'k V. Cortlandt, William Cockburn, Garret Rapalje.

Petition in 1772. April 8. Read in Council

Note: - It is perhaps scarcely necessary to remind the reader that the York towns of Socialborough and Durham nearly coincided with the New Hampshire towns of Rutland and Clarendon – that the present County of Rutland constitutes the Southern portion of the York County of Charlotte and that Col Reid's settlement was located at Vergennes – being the same which was so valiantly defended by the doughty highlander, Donald McIntosh.

The above petition seems to have been presented in 1772. The signers were citizens of New York colony speculating in Vermont lands – their statement of the population may be true, but it seems to resemble the stories which speculators of a more recent date have published concerning the natural advantages of their paper-planned marsh-located cities of the West. Of these signers five became Royalists, viz.: Jacob Walton – was elected member of the Colonial house of Assembly from the city of New York in 1769, his election being considered a triumph of the Episcopalians over the Presbyterians – in 1775 he with others addressed a letter to Gen. Gage at Boston, on the state of public affairs – in 1776 Gen. Lee ordered him to remove from his house for the accommodation of the Whig troops.

William Walton – was Secretary to the Superintendent of the Police in New York City. Theophilact Bache. In 1778, while residing at Flatbush, L.I., Bache was captured by Capt. Marriner, put into a boat and taken to New Jersey. In 1782, he was Vice President of the New York Chamber of Commerce. He died in New York in 1807, aged 78. He was noted for his kindness to the Whig prisoners in New York City. His brother Richard was a Whig and married Sarah, daughter of Dr. Franklin. Wm. McAdam. – A merchant in New York City – his entire estate was confiscated. John Harris Cruger. Lived in New York, was a member of the council of the Colony – his estate was confiscated – at the peace he went to England – he married a daughter of John DeLancey.

#574

Tidbits From Then and Now

Just a couple of interesting tidbits from the past

The Rutland News, November 20, 1919

THREE SHIFTS WORK AT PROUSE BAKERY

A little thing like a noisy bread mixer and a city rule does not stand in the way of A.S. Prouse having bread baked at night at his new shop on West Street.

If a bread mixer of one type disturbs the dreams of the guests at the hotel next door a new one can be secured which will run with noiseless motion.

This is exactly what happened this week. Mr. Prouse, who recently bought the bakery, was not able to turn out all the bread and rolls, which he wished and wanted to run a night shift at the place. He found himself up against the proposition stated above. Not daunted, he got a new machine and now there are three shifts covering the 24 hours of the day turning out food products for the citizens of Rutland.

The kind of food Mr. Prouse dispenses is evidently the kind Rutland people enjoy because within the last 20 years Mr. Prouse has acquired the Uwanta lunchroom, Sycamore Inn, the Rutland depot eating room and the Marble City bakery.

The Rutland Evening News, November 4, 1926

FRANZONI TO SELL ATTACHED AIRPLANE

Rutland is going to see one of the queerest auction sales in the history of the city at 10 o'clock on Saturday morning, November 13.

At that time a J-N-4 Curtis aeroplane will be put up for sale in the public highway on Spellman Terrace. A notice posted on the City Hall bulletin board states that the machine is being sold by Deputy Sheriff Almo B. Franzoni for debts incurred by G. Collini with the South Main Street Garage.

The Rutland Evening News, November 13, 1926

SNAPPY CURTIS BIPLANE BRINGS ONLY \$130 AT SALE HERE TODAY

“Come on boys, bid her up; it’s cheaper to fly then walk!”

Thus shouted deputy Sheriff Almo Franzoni as he stood today in Spellman Terrace, surrounded by a crowd of spectators and men interested in the Curtis airplane which was up for auction.

The sale took about five minutes and it ended with the possession of the plane passing into the hands of R. E. Pease of Hudson Falls, N.Y. for the small sum of \$130.

It was nearly three years ago that George Collini of the Vineland Aviation School in Vineland, N.J., decided to give Rutland a thrill. He swooped down over the city, did a few turns and then headed south. As he passed over an orchard on the edge of the city he struck an apple tree and completely wrecked the plane. It was hauled to the South Main Street Garage where it has been ever since. Collini never came to claim it.

Today the only bidders were Pease and several of the garage men, who were interested in boosting the price over the \$118 that they will receive for storing the wreckage.

The New York man was much interested in obtaining the wrecked plane because, he said, it corresponds exactly to another wrecked machine, which he recently bought and reconditioned. Pease has taken over the planes of D.A. Rickard, a famous Schenectady pilot.

Tidbits From Then and Now

#575

The Rutland News, July 6, 1925

ORDERS FOUNDRY SOLD

Superior Judge Sherman R. Moulton, presiding at a court of Chancery this morning at the Rutland County Court House, signed an order authorizing Receiver Walter A. Clark, of the Davis Foundry, to sell the property either at private sale or public auction. Before the sale is made the property will be advertised for three weeks.

The Davis Foundry Company, which is operated by Charles Davis of this city, during the War [WWI] was one of the biggest industries of Rutland and it had a weekly payroll of many thousands of dollars.

Since January many claims against the concern have been filed and there have been no new assets located and petition for the sale of the property was made to the Court. However, it is known that it is one of the best foundry plants in Vermont and it would not be surprising to see some group of capitalists who need castings, look the plant over with the idea of again operating, which would be a big boom to Rutland.

The Rutland News, August 25, 1925

Included in auction notice of Walter A. Clark, Receiver

The real estate consists of two parcels, one on the east side of Post Street with a frontage on the Rutland Railroad of about one hundred and fifty feet.

The other parcel is situated between Post and Spruce Streets with a frontage on Post Street of about two hundred and forty-eight feet and a frontage on Spruce Street of three hundred and fifty feet.

On the parcel of land adjacent to the railroad there is a fine brick building with marble foundation affording excellent opportunities for shipping.

On the parcel located between Spruce and Post streets, there is a fully equipped foundry plant with three cupolas, with a maximum capacity of thirty tons daily.

The Rutland News, August 28, 1925

MINTZER BUYS DAVIS FOUNDRY

The Charles E. Davis Foundry Company property was sold at public auction yesterday afternoon for \$15,700 to Joseph Mintzer of this city. The sale included all of the real estate, a siding on the Rutland Railroad of about 150 feet, fixed machinery and a large quantity of other machinery and tools and an office building.

The value of the property some seven years ago when the concern was operating a force of 250 men was estimated at about \$150,000. The property sold included a large brick factory building on the west side of Post Street, sold about 10 years ago to the Davis Foundry Company for \$8,500 and factory buildings on the east side of Post Street.

There were representatives of all of Rutland's leading industries present yesterday at the auction, but there were only a few bids.

It is possible that if the court approves of the sale of the property the new owner may sell the plant to a concern that will operate it as a foundry.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, February 11, 1925

CAR BARN BOUGHT BY RUTLAND MEN

R.L. Richmond and F. H. Remington Purchase S. Main St. Property

 A deed has been filed at the City Clerk's office showing the sale of the car barn and property on South Main Street, owned by the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Company, to R. L. Richmond and F. H. Remington of this city. The transaction involved several thousand dollars.

The property is one of the valuable sites in the city for manufacturing purposes, having a large frontage on a railroad siding. It is understood that part of the new building will be occupied by Mr. Remington, who is a contractor. Other parts of the building will be used for storage purposes.

The Rutland News, July 15, 1926

PLAN ERECTION OF GARAGE TO COST \$30,000

Building to Be Located Between Flanders Motor Co. and Linscott Motor Co.
Is Leased to Local Ford Agents

Richmond & Remington, owners of the property on South Main Street formerly occupied by the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Company, as car barns, will break ground Monday for the erection of a new garage at a cost of approximately \$30,000 according to information given out today at their office.

The owners stated that the new garage, which will be constructed of brick, tile and cement with ornamental marble trimmings, will be ready for occupancy October 1. It has been leased to the Babbitt Motors, Inc., Ford and Lincoln agents in this city.

The new garage will be one story high and will be located directly between the Linscott Motor Company and the Flanders Motor Company, opposite the Fair Grounds on South Main Street.

The property was purchased by Richmond & Remington of the Vermont Hydroelectric Corporation about two years ago at a price said to be about \$20,000. With the building of two garages and remodeling of the former car

barns into a garage, the value of the property has been increased to around \$110,000.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 6, 1927

BAXTER BANK SELLS HOME AND WILL MOVE

Institution to Be Transferred to Mead Building January 1

The present banking building on Merchants Row having been sold, the directors of the Baxter National Bank voted yesterday to move the institution to the Mead building at the northeast corner of Merchants Row and Center Street in order to provide more room for its increasing business. The space in the corner store at the Mead building, for many years the home of a drug business and now occupied by the Abraham drug company, and the former Marble Savings Bank quarters, adjoining on the north, will be thrown into one large room and completely rearranged for banking purposes

Officials of the institution declined to state last night who the purchaser of the Baxter building is.

The most modern equipment and arrangement of banking facilities will be employed at the new quarters. The vault will be rebuilt and a heavy burglarproof door installed. In addition, the vault will have the protection of the latest electric devices. It is expected that the new home of the institution will be ready about January 1, 1928.

The Baxter National Bank is the second oldest national bank in Rutland, having been organized by the late Gen. H.H. Baxter in 1870. For the first two years of its existence it did business at the Hotel Bardwell where the organization meeting was held. It has occupied the present building since 1872.

The façade of the building is a facsimile of a section of the old Grand Central terminal in New York.

Gen. Baxter was the first president, from 1870 to his death in 1884. John W. Cramton, who died in office in 1900, succeeded him. Arunah W. Hyde was president from 1900 to 1904 and the late Gov. John A. Mead from 1904 to 1920. During the 57 years of the bank's existence, there have been but three cashiers: George R. Bottum from 1870 to 1904; Charles Clark, 1904 to 1910 and the present official Fred C. Spencer.

The Directors since organization have been Nathan L. Sprague, Walter C. Dunton, John N. Baxter, George F. Lothrop, George E. Royce, Trenor W. Park, Walter C. Landon, A. W. Hyde, T.J. Lyon, S.F. Smith, H. O. Carpenter, E.D.Keyes, James C. Dunn, W.R. Kinsman, T.W. Moloney, Hugh H. Baxter, L. G. Kingsley, J.F. Manning, John A. Mead.

The present officials are: Carl B. Hinsman, president; Charles H. Landon, vice president; Fred C. Spencer, cashier. The forgoing together with Erwin E. Keyes, Judge Fred M. Butler, Frank M. Wilson, Wallace W. Nichols, Egbert C. Tuttle, Judge A. G. Coolidge and Herman W. Vaughn constitute the present board of directors.

The total resources of the bank at the last statement on June 30, 1927 were nearly \$900,000 and since organization in 1870, dividends aggregating \$873,000 have been paid to stockholders.

Rutland Daily Herald, July 8, 1927

Mead Corner Site Of Drug Store 45 Years

Bank Will Be First Enterprise To Displace Apothecary at Spot Since Eighties

The proposed occupation of the ground floor of the Mead building next January by the Baxter National Bank will see a business other than a drug store at the northeast intersection of Merchants Row and Center Street for the first time in over 45 years.

William Abraham, who purchased the establishment from the Louis A. Miner estate, owns the present store. Mr. Miner had conducted a drug store at the site for several years, having acquired the interest of his partner in the firm, Miner & Thomas.

Miner & Thomas followed the T. B. Atchison Company, which had done business in the Mead building for many years after the death of Mr. Connor, with whom Mr. Atchison had been associated for a long time.

The initial drug business on the spot was run by the Chapman Drug Company, which sold out to Atchison & Connor in 1888. The late Frank H. Chapman was the chief owner of the establishment, which was founded in the early eighties.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Herald, July 8, 1927

AWARD CONTRACTS TO ENLARGE COUNTY JAIL

Judges Complete Arrangements for Addition To Cost About \$12,500

The contracts have been awarded by Assistant Judges John C. White of this city and Paul G. Rose of Poultney for making an addition to the Rutland County Jail on Center Street and work will be commenced as soon as the steel arrives from Kentucky for the cells and for reinforcing the walls. The alterations will increase the cell capacity by 20 and greatly improve the ventilating and sanitary equipment of the institution

The cost of making the changes will be \$12,500. The money will be raised by a special county tax of 3.6 cents on the dollar of the grand list, a special act of the last Legislature making possible the levy.

Charles G. Noyes of this city was awarded the contract for the cement work and chimney; Fries & Son Steel Construction and Engineering Company of Covington, KY, steel work; R. H. Murray, Rutland, electrical work; Dunn Bros., Rutland, plumbing.

Ten cells will be added to the present equipment, each being fitted up to accommodate two prisoners when crowded conditions demand it. There will be a prisoners' corridor in front of each row of cells and separate corridors for the guards. The locking device will be so arranged that all the doors in a row of cells may be opened at one time or each door unlocked separately.

The addition will be surrounded by three-inch cement walls, in the center of which will be a heavy steel netting to prevent tunneling. A modern ventilating outfit, operated by a fan and pipe system, will be installed.

#579

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, May 21, 1925

MILL VILLAGE MILL TUMBLES INTO POND

The old Glen Mill at Mill Village tumbled into its millpond last night carrying with it a large stock of grain, automobiles, sleighs, buggys, sleds and tools. The loss is estimated at several hundred dollars. Ice in the pond, breaking this spring, is believed to have loosened the supports of the structure.

The mill was used for storage purposes, Mrs. Hattie E. Leonard having a large supply of grain in the structure. Sidney Butterfield lost two automobiles. F. R. Patch owned the building. It was erected in 1877.

The Rutland News, July 24, 1925

OLD GLEN MILL TO BE REPLACED

Landmark At Mill Village Has Changed In Ownership Many Times

Within a short time the old Glen Mill, a landmark for more than a century, will have disappeared, its place having been taken by a modern dwelling house and garage. Leon F. Leonard, the present owner, bought the mill building last May when it was sold at auction after toppling over into East Creek, thus bringing it back into the Leonard family, which has owned it for 35 years.

Some 60 years ago P. F. Vose and B.F. Butterfield conducted the mill, grinding grist there for several years. They sold it to Royal Graves who some time later sold it to the late George Russell, father of Raymond Russell of Mill Village. He in turn, sold it to the late W. C. Leonard, Leon Leonard's father. A few years ago the F. R. Patch Manufacturing Company bought and built nearby its Glen Power station, later selling this to the Rutland Railway, Light & Power Company. When the Patch Company bought the property Mrs. W. C. Leonard or Mrs. Mattie E. Leonard, as she is now known, rented the building from the new owners and continued selling grains there, grinding having been discontinued several years before. When the land and buildings were sold the power company retained only the waterpower rights, Mrs. Leonard bought the land and her son the mill.

When Mr. Leonard completes the house he will occupy it as a home, the garage being operated in connection with a "tourists home" conducted by his mother nearby, another example of the passing of the country mill period and the progress of the age of rapid travel marked by the automobile touring supply stations dotting the world's map and undreamed in the days of when the old mill was built.

#580

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, July 31, 1926

REPAIR WEST ST. COVERED BRIDGE

When Floor Planks Were Removed Beams Were Also Found Rotted

The old covered bridge, which crosses Otter Creek on West Street, is now undergoing extensive repairs by the Department of Public Works to preserve its usefulness a number of years longer.

When the floor planks were taken up for replacement, it was found that the supporting beams were so rotted on top that a deep trough-like excavation could be made by digging out the decayed wood.

Accordingly, each of these beams is being re-enforced by fastening two thick planks to each of the vertical sides and filling in the cavity with cement. When this is finished new floor planks will be laid down.

Most of these covered bridges, which abound in Vermont and are peculiar to the New England States, were built shortly before the Civil War, and it is thought that the date of this one is about 1860.

Bits about the West Street Bridge from the flood of November, 1927

November 5, 1927

"Driftwood had backed up the water at the West Street Bridge yesterday afternoon and was eating at the embankments."

November 9, 1927

"It was hard work on the part of the Fire Department, rather than good luck, that the West Street Bridge over East Creek still stands. With the approaches blocked by the torrents and heavy timbers and debris battering against the bridge, the firemen reached the structure by means of a ladder and then pushed aside the heavy matter that was exerting such a dangerous pressure on the bridge."

July 19, 2010

The present concrete West Street Bridge is closed to through traffic (possibly for one month?) while repairs are underway.

#581
Aug 4-11

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, August 5, 1909

THE DEADLY CIGARETTE

Every little while, whenever, in fact, the daily news lacks color, some newspaper exhumes a "cigarette fiend" story and a great many excellent people begin to have dark ultramarine spasms. Drastic legislation has been enacted in various states, forbidding the use and sale of cigarettes. There is a general hysteria in regard to the matter that seems needless.

Cigarettes should not be smoked by minors, nor should cigars or pipes. The father who finds his boy smoking a cigarette and promptly flogs him, with the words: "Don't you ever let me catch you smoking any more cigarettes; if you want to smoke, smoke a pipe." This is a fool that needs to be sent to a kindergarten. A pipe will kill a growing boy much quicker than a cigarette, if smoked in the same degree. The trouble does not come with the cigarette, but with the abuse of it.

Many of the cigarettes manufactured today have more genuine tobacco in them than there is in a pipe-full of cheap tobacco. A man who smokes the popular brands of tobacco is probably smoking cardboard, weeds and various adulterants. If he smokes them as much as the cigarette fiend smokes cigarettes, he is doing his system just as much harm. The cigarette fiend is generally a mental degenerate before he smokes cigarettes. The cigarette is often blamed for conditions that are due to other causes.

Growing boys have no business with tobacco in any form. Ordinary men have little business with it and no business using it to excess. Tobacco, in excess, liquor in excess, coffee in excess, food in excess, exercise in excess all kill. Excess is the great national evil. When a man dies from stuffing himself with food, we say that he passed away with acute nephritis. When a boy dies of smoking cigarettes, we tell the truth. Both die of the same thing—excess.

It would be better if we told the truth always so that boys would abstain equally from cigarettes, overeating and all excesses. But let us blame the cigarette for what it actually does, not for a congenital deficiency in gray matter that would be exploited in some other folly if cigarettes were never made.

A parent with common, old fashioned, wholesome ideas about food and rational living will do more to correct the cigarette evil than all the laws ever passed.

[This article is 100 years old----and we still haven't gotten it!]

1582

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland Evening News, November 9, 1927

ROYCE OUTLINES CITY CONDITIONS

Mendon Water Supply Brook Had Changed Course, It is Disclosed

NEW CHANNEL DUG

Reservoir Had Nearly Run Dry When Beardsley Made Discovery

All roads and bridges throughout the City of Rutland are now passable except for the small spans of Adams and Crescent Streets and, of course, the Dorr and Ripley Bridges, which will be replaced by better structures than were washed away when the City has decided on a number of designs submitted by Commissioner of Public Works, Richard H. Royce.

North Main, South Main and Park Streets, where bridges were washed away and large sections of the road flooded, have been rendered passable by the repairing of the roads and the erection of temporary structures. The rest of the small bridges around the city, which were put out of commission by the water, have been mended and all of the immediate work that remains to be done is the repairing of a few small culverts.

One approach to the Crescent Street Bridge has been washed out, and there is some talk of increasing the span of this bridge to cover the gap, rather than to fill in the hole. This would give the stream more room in case of another period of high water.

The Gleason Reservoir, although still functioning, is completely filled with rocks. This will be cleaned out today by the Department of Public Works.

Commissioner Royce estimates the cost of repairing the public works, excluding the two big bridges, but including the purchase of some equipment, to be \$35,000. The cost of the two bridges is still in doubt, as it is not known which of the plans submitted to the City by the Department will be accepted.

It was learned today that the city reservoir was running dry on Saturday, but was saved by the prompt work of Edgar H. Beardsley of the Water Department and his men.

Mendon Stream, prompted by some vagary of the flood, had changed its course to a position 500 feet from the old one at the place where it flowed by the reservoir. In fact, it had moved to the other side of the road. This left the channel supplying the reservoir from the stream high and dry, and the reservoir had emptied to a large extent Saturday morning.

Mr. Beardsley and his gang, however, cut through two new channels from places near the point where the new course of the stream diverges from the old. Then the chlorinating plant, which was located at the old intake to the reservoir, was moved to the point where the water entered the main.

Approximately 1000 cubic yards of material have been replaced in road wash-outs in the City of Rutland by the Department of Public Works since the floods have receded. Four temporary bridges have been erected and about four other small bridges have been restored to a usable condition.

Stratton Road, which suffered severely, is now passable although very rough. Killington Avenue still remains impassable at the steep grade at its upper end. The cement bridge on Adams Street has been turned into a crumbling ruin by the harmless looking little stream that now flows through it.

On the Creek Road, there is a washout about 125 feet long by 30 feet across and many other smaller ones. These have been filled in sufficiently, however, to admit traffic.

It will be some time before the bridge across East Creek on Crescent Street can be rendered passable. Although the structure is still standing, the west approach has been carried away for a distance of 40 or 50 feet, and the river now flows where the road was.

[There are many Rutland residents who “survived” this flood who are now witnessing the work on West Street Bridge. I am sure if they overcame the immense difficulties in 1927, we should be able to more easily do it now, with just this one-bridge difficulty].

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, December 22, 1924

ROTARY TO GIVE CITY PLAYFIELD**GROUND WILL COST CLUB SUM OF \$5,000**

The Rutland Rotary Club is to purchase six and a half acres of land west of North Main Street and near North Street, for a municipal playground. Authorization of the purchase was made at a meeting of the club at the Hotel Berwick this noon. The price of the land is \$5,000, and Newman K. and George T. Chaffee, present owners of the land, have donated \$1,000 each.

Dr. Ray Smith, chairman of the committee on playgrounds, read the following report:

“Through the untiring efforts of your president, Bert Stafford, together with the equally efficient efforts of Ben Buxton, coupled with the unselfish and very real desire of two brothers that they do something of lasting benefit for the citizens of Rutland, I am able to bring before you the following proposition: That parcel of land lying just to the west of North Main Street and traversed by Tenney Brook, owned by George T. And Newman K. Chaffee and comprising some six odd acres, is offered to this organization for playground purposes at a price of Five Thousand dollars—a price well in accord with accepted land values in this location. The minimum price would be accepted by these gentlemen from any source. Not only can this property be purchased at the figure given but, it can be purchased upon such easy terms as take the transaction entirely out of the realm of ordinary business affairs. We may make our own terms of payment and can draw up our own contract. Nor is this all. Should we make this purchase George T. Chaffee and Newman K. Chaffee each will donate the sum of one thousand dollars toward that purpose. In other words this organization has now the opportunity of securing this tract of land for the purpose stated, at an actual expenditure of three thousand dollars and the payments may extend over a period of years.

“This property once purchased, the work of grading and of building must be financed and carried on and this will require the active aid of every man and woman in the city. It is right here that I feel I must be most frank. No one organization can assume this great responsibility. No one group of men can lay claim to special glory through accomplishment of this ideal. This must be a community movement. Rotary, in its true light, is a spirit, not a club in the accepted meaning of that word. These members are drawn from every

denomination and every sect, from every club and every civic body in this city. It is, in fact, a cross section through the heart of Rutland. From the standpoint of Rotary being a 'club' only, this project is far beyond our abilities or our capabilities....

"It has been suggested that some club or clubs might underwrite the actual construction of the swimming pool while others would make the construction of diamond or gridiron their particular activity or, again the entire construction work might be undertaken through the means of an old-fashioned "bee" with each organization in the city furnishing the labor for a certain definite period.

"These matters must all be worked out at a later date...The vital part that must be settled by you today is the actual purchase of the property. ... Will you at this time direct them to do this".

Rutland Daily Herald, November 21 1933

ROTARIANS OPEN NEW FIELD HOUSE

Nearly 100 members of the Rutland Rotary club together with city officials and other guests attended the dedication excises at the new Field House that was erected on the Rotary Field. Tribute was paid to the many former Rotarians who were responsible for the idea of founding the field.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, September 1, 1925

NEWBERRY OPENS BIG STORE TO MEET SECTION'S NEEDS

Big Retailers Select Rutland As Ideal Spot In Which to Locate Store With 32,000 Different Items

This year the people of Rutland and all visitors to the Fair will be treated to something new. The J.J. Newberry Co., operators of a chain of stores all over the eastern part of the United States, have added their eighty-first link at 41 Center Street, Rutland. This new 5c, 10c, 25c and \$1 store is located in the building where G. E. L. Badlam formerly operated a grocery store.

A large addition has been constructed at the rear. The basement of this addition will be used as a salesroom; the main floor merely increases the floor space on the street level to a considerable degree. This greatly increased floor space affords the Newberry Co. adequate floor and counter space in which to display their large and varied lines of merchandise.

The visitor will find values spread over board counters from the front counter to the very last counter in the rear of the basement salesroom. The large buying power of the Newberry Co. enables this concern to place such big values before the public that the visitor, not only at Fair time but thereafter, will find it especially advantageous to avail himself of the many buying opportunities offered by this concern.

The Newberry Co. takes special pride in the service, prompt and courteous, accorded the customers and one of the policies of this concern is to hire help enough to attend to the wants of its customers.

All goods are openly displayed on top of sales counters where they may easily be inspected. This firm maintains a complete candy department where goods are received fresh daily. The jewelry department is always full of snappy numbers and all the latest fads. Double disc phonograph records are on sale at all times. They include all the latest song hits and jazz hits. Stationery may be found for the home, the office or the school. Children's ready-made suits, rompers and dresses are very reasonably priced. The toilet goods department always arouses the interest of the public and this place of the business has not been slighted a particle. A complete line of laces, ribbons and stamped goods is displayed for the customer's benefit. A notions department has been well stocked for women who are constantly in need of these goods.

Dry goods are here in large lots. A fine, high-grade line of silk underwear is on display. Plenty of yard goods and also high-grade toweling and towels are in stock at all times. In the household goods department one may find any article needed to do house cleaning. The hardware counter is designed especially to interest the man. The lines are complete in every form. Connected with this department are full lines of automobile accessories. Special attention has been paid to this department in order to provide a full line for the motorist. Electrical goods for any man who is wiring a home may be found. There is no end to the big values found in the enamelware, tin ware and aluminum ware departments. A high-grade line of crockery, including many dainty patterns, may be found. It will pay any person wanting a set of dishes to visit the Newberry store. The glassware department offers the public anything from a castor cup to a fine line of cut glass. The toy department, of course, is designed especially to interest the children. It is complete in every respect.

The Newberry Co. prides itself on service, quality and the right prices. The management extends an invitation to the public to inspect the goods and the prices at which they are marked.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, July 20, 1931

FAIR TO REBUILD INDUSTRIAL HALL

Noyes Awarded Contract to Replace Structure Burned on July 12

Construction work will start immediately on a new \$13,000 Industrial building on the Rutland Fairgrounds in accordance with action taken by the officials and trustees of the Fair Association at a special meeting in the association office Saturday afternoon.

Charles G. Noyes of Adams Street, local contractor who has erected other fair buildings, was given the contract for the new structure. He assured the fair officials that the exhibition hall would be completed in sufficient time to allow the merchants and manufacturers to arrange their showings before the opening of this season's fair on Labor Day, September 7.

The new structure will be similar to the one destroyed by fire. However, a number of changes have been made in the plans, which are expected to add to the convenience and beauty. At the entrance on the west and the south side, colonial type porches will be incorporated. These entrances will be columned in a manner similar to that with which the design of the Boys' and Girls' building is marked. Four large 14-foot columns will support a roof over each entrance.

Roofing on this new structure will be of slate shingles so as to be fireproof. The framework, partitions and outside covering will be of wood, as was the former building. The concrete floor and foundation, which served the former structure, will also be used in the exhibition hall. For 108 feet of the 254-foot ridge of the building's roof, a glass-enclosed monitor is to be constructed to provide light in the daytime and ventilation both day and night.

The west end of the structure will be given over to offices. The Rutland Chamber of Commerce will occupy a portion of the building on this end, as it did formerly. President Will L. Davis and Secretary Frank S. Nicholson will have offices in this part of the building and space will be allotted for the accommodation of the ticket sellers. Here the gate receipts and tickets will be counted and checked. A ticket sales booth will occupy the northwest corner of the building so that fair-goers approaching from Park Street will not have to go around to the main gate on South Main Street. Women's toilet and rest room facilities will be improved.

President Davis stated that the Fair Association has been assured the full cooperation of all the merchants and manufacturers who formerly occupied exhibition space in the Industrial building. It was principally because of this assurance that the association officials and trustees acted to rebuild the destroyed hall immediately.

Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, September 16, 1919

ROUND THE TOWN

Before you send your boy to school another week, let him have his hair cut in the latest style. Mike Toomey says the "Dutch clip" is the style for boys. It probably bests mother's mixing bowl mode.

[Seems like today its "Mohawk" style]

William Huntress of Keene, N.H., a son of Frank H. Huntress, who is well known in this city, has a position in the Ross-Huntress store. "Billy" has seen service overseas and is thoroughly posted in the dry goods business. Welcome to our city!

The movies are becoming so popular that even ministers and deacons of our churches attend them.

[What can I say about the movies today? Everybody can view them at home!]

We heard a story the other day of a woman who went into one of our stores and looked at some diamond pins. Finally, she found one that suited her and asked the clerk the price. He told her "seven fifty," and she bought it. A few days later she received a bill for seven hundred and fifty dollars. The pin was returned immediately. It was a misunderstanding as to the price.

[Did you know diamonds were that expensive in 1919?]

Uncle Sam is advertising for larger and more suitable quarters for our downtown post-office. It is hoped that he will be able to find much larger and more convenient quarters than the present location for the accommodation of our businessmen. What Rutland needs is a new federal building in the business section of the city and some day Rutland will have it.

[I believe it was 1931 before that became a reality]

We notice that Dr. J. M. Hamilton is advertising his house for sale. Is the doctor going to leave us? We hope not.

[According to the City Directories, Dr. Hamilton did stay, but moved to another location.]

We heard last week of a former Rutland man who was offered \$63,000 for his leases of oil lands in California that cost him only \$100. This is making money fast.

[What can I say?]

Dr. A. Murrell Stevens is building a fine residence on Bellevue Avenue.

Why don't the armory committee give the public the different sites offered them for our new armory with prices for each piece of property? This is what the people are asking for.

[Doesn't this still happen today?]

THREE BIG HINTS [From the same 1919 newspaper]

#1: That the city ought to buy the entire square—bounded by Wales, West, Willow and Edson Streets—for the sites of a new federal building, the armory and a small park.

#2: That the city ought to pave the rest of Merchants Row and Center Street with brick.

#3: That the city ought to pay our regular policemen \$100 per month.

[No wonder they couldn't buy diamonds!]

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Tidbits From Then and Now

The Rutland News, September 23, 1919

RUTLAND FAIR'S FUTURE BEING DISCUSSED NOW

Some People Consider Time Opportune to Develop Year-Round Amusement Park

It will be some weeks before the accounts of the Rutland Fair of 1919 are all made up, but it is apparently certain that the Rutland County Agricultural Society is out of debt as the outcome of the latest exhibition. The future of the fair meanwhile, is occupying the thoughts of a good many local people.

There are those who believe that the time is at hand when the fair should be put on a more firm basis in a business way. These people urge that a corporation of public-spirited men be organized, to take a long-term lease of the property from the agricultural society and inaugurate an extensive program of permanent improvements, perhaps getting additional land for the purpose. There are others, of course who feel that the society is doing very well along present lines, and they are willing to let well enough alone.

Year-Round Amusement Park Advocated

The more enterprising partisans feel that Rutland being the center of a large and populous territory could support a year around amusement park into which the fair grounds could be developed. They point out that a small lake could be constructed for bathing purposes in the summertime and skating in the winter. The slope to the south of the stream would offer a splendid natural runway to toboggans. It is pointed, out that there is enough water, which if dammed and protected, would furnish a splendid swimming pool.

These people argue that while Rutland could not hope to establish a permanent exposition here on the scale of the Eastern States Exposition at Springfield, Mass, yet something of a similar nature could be undertaken which would be a distinct credit to the city and the state and be one of the principal fairs of the east. If their plans should be adopted, considerable shifting of the buildings on the fair grounds would be required so as to collect all of the horse and cattle sheds into one part of the ground, preferably on the east and south, leaving more room in the vicinity of the grandstand for other attractions. The opinion is freely expressed that the present is the time to commence a program of expansion.

President Frank M. Wilson and Secretary Walter K. Farnsworth, under whose direction the Rutland fair has come to its present state of excellence and financial success, both unequivocally declared that they will not occupy their positions longer. Pressure of their own business is given as the reason in both cases. It remains to be seen as to whether those interested in the Rutland Fair will accept them at their word and permit them to be relieved of their duties.

In any event, it is believed by Rutland people generally that the future of the fair is of very great importance to the City. The probabilities are that a meeting will be held in the near future to discuss this very question and lay plans early for whatever developments appeal to the citizens as being wise and in the public interest.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Constitution Day is September 17th. As an example of "Then and Now" here are two views of life in the United States as noted by "teens".

Charles B. Mead was born on 5 April 1843, the son of Andrew Jackson and Ellen Boardman Mead of West Rutland. He was killed during the siege of Petersburg, Virginia on 17 June 1864. The following are two, of the many impressions of his world that he penned as a schoolboy.

FAITH

To what a great variety of cases may faith be applied.

The weary tired laborer as he turns on his homeward way, thinks of the many trials and privations of his life. He would almost be willing to be down in his grave; but wake up have Faith; the clouds will ere long flee away; the sun will shine forth in all its brightness.

The student in his room as he puzzles his brain over a difficult problem or question feels almost discouraged; but have faith that it can be done, "what man has done man can do again," try earnestly and rightly and it will soon be accomplished.

All great and good men had faith or they would not have accomplished anything.

Cyrus W. Field would not have succeeded in laying the Ocean Telegraph if he did not have faith and try.

Christians in their trials are almost persuaded by Satan to give up trying to do right; but they think of God's promise to man. "be faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life" and continue in their heavenward way.

Therefore all ye weak and erring souls have Faith.

October 15th, 1858 [age 15]

COURAGE

Courage is a very desirable acquirement.

It is of various kinds.

The courage of the battle-field where men are rushing in the very face of fiery death is something, but is often goaded on by hope of reward, glory, and honors and yet oftener still by recklessness of life laboring under misfortunes.

Manly courage is always desirable.

For in contact with the world, loss of property and friends it is often brought into requisition.

But in many cases it is assisted by moral courage which above all the other kinds of courage is the most desirable.

When persons possessed of moral courage are bowed under misfortune then it is that the strength of it is fully seen.

Though it bends them like the "reed before the blast" but when the storm is past they rise and are comforted, triumphing in that their God "doeth all things well."

December 17th 1858 [age 15]

Rosemary M. Davidson was born 17 March 1998, the daughter of Martin J. and Mary (Horan) Davidson. Rosemary wrote the following essay for her 6th grade class and it was presented at her local Elks club in Middlesex, NJ.

THE AMERICAN DREAM: WHAT IS IT?

The original American Dream for most colonial people was freedom. The other colonial people wanted to be ruled by the king of England. Obviously, the American Dream is different for everyone.

My idea of the American Dream is for everyone to have a house, be able to take care of their needs, and have a good life. The American Dream can change. In these hard times this may mean that the American Dream could change to just having the basics.

We all have different dreams like we all have different faces. Our dreams can change, as do our faces. Everyone is allowed to have a different dream. Since we're all different our dreams are all different. Everyone has opportunities to gain their dreams multiple times a day.

Today's American Dream is to end the war in Iraq. -----

Americans all have different dreams. In America each person can dream his or her dreams. This is why we are proud to be Americans. We have dreams, and we can follow them. We are Americans.

Spring 2010 [age 12]

My personal feelings-----**DON'T UNDERESTIMATE OUR
TEENAGER'S THOUGHTS!**

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland County Independent, October 6, 1866

RUTLAND, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

The rapid growth of Rutland and the continued increase of its wealth and population for the past fifteen years, has been a matter of great wonder to those who had been taught to think that an interior New England town could never raise itself above the dignity and importance of a quiet rural village and who imagined that all the larger villages in Vermont had arrived to the full height of their glory years ago. That this class of people should be a numerous one is not surprising when we recall the long years when our oldest country villages did stand from generation to generation, each the type of the other, as living evidences of the apparent fact that the air and soil of Vermont was not congenial to the growth of large towns.

The introduction of railroads into the state put a new face upon this condition of things and when the roar of the cars awoke the echoes of our hitherto quiet hills and valleys, it at the same time seemed to arouse the latent energies of the people. New avenues to trade were opened, fresh incitements to business given and as a ready market was now to be found for all the products of the country, the old "slow coach" system of trade was done away with. A new era dawned upon the land and it was soon found that there might be vitality even in an old Vermont village. Consequently many of our staid old places that had dozed on for years in a state of blissful quietude, awoke to a sense of the new state of things and started off with a fresh impulse in the race of improvement.

Of these towns in Vermont, which have thus been, as it were, born into a new life, Rutland stands among the first, and indeed we may say, at the head. There is probably no town in the state which has within the past few years added as much to its wealth, population, business, and all that goes to give a town character, influence and power as has Rutland.

From a population in 1850 of about 3,800 she has today not less than 10,000. From a vote ranging, but a few years back, from 450 to 500, she in her last election gave 1435, and it may with truth be said that the actual increase in her business has been yet far more wonderful. But, the more important question for consideration now is as to whether Rutland shall continue to increase as it has for the past few years, or indeed whether it can be held staid and steadfast where it is? Now it is quite certain that no one can answer this question with any degree of certainty as this whole matter depends, in a very great measure, on the future action of the business men of

Rutland themselves. It is true that the mere growth of the town has thus far been apparently as vigorous and healthy as it has been rapid. Very few places can be found where every branch of business has been better sustained, where fewer failures have occurred or where the credit of businessmen stands higher than in the Rutland of the past few years. Yet, this in itself will not secure its future advancement, or even stability, nor will it do to risk the continued and permanent well being of the place to the encouragement, merely, of the business enterprise within its own limits.

This is all very well as far as it goes, but it seems but a short way to go toward making Rutland what, with its capabilities, it should be. The idea that a country town in Vermont, regenerated and disenthralled from its long lethargy as it may be, with the natural advantages, which even Rutland possesses, can build itself up to any high position without extraneous aid, is preposterous. Local prejudices therefore that to sustain and uphold this idea should at once, and forever, be eliminated from the thoughts of those who assume by their acts, as business men, to guide and direct the future destiny of Rutland. That the town, in itself has great natural advantages they seem to understand. That Rutland County has capabilities far greater, and that this fact may be turned to the advantage of the central town of the county, appears not to be as fully appreciated.

The time has gone by when the people of a growing town, with a future before it, should indulge in the narrow jealousies which it is said governed the action of those who went before them, but with more enlarged views, and a better understanding of the "community of interest," they should begin to see that the interest of a town and the surrounding country must always be identical.

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Tidbits From Then and Now

As the 150th anniversary of the Civil War in 2011 comes closer, questions about the Underground Railroad in Vermont frequently come to the Rutland Historical Society from teachers and owners of old homes.

In 1995, Ray Zirblis received a grant from the Vermont Senate Institutions Committee to research the story of the Underground Railroad. In 1997 he issued the results of his research. In short, most of the folklore about the Underground Railroad was more myth than historic fact.

Escaping slaves hardly needed to go “underground” in Vermont. The route in Vermont mostly followed Route 7 the length of the state to Canada where slavery was illegal. Whether the escaping slaves used the railroad that paralleled Route 7 or the roads themselves, some assistance in making the trip, was what was mostly needed.

There is documentation of where and from whom that assistance would come that appeared in the 1890 obituary of the Rutland “stationmaster” Reuben R. Thrall of the Underground Railroad, who helped hundreds to escape to Canada. When the slave reached Hon. Daniel Roberts at Manchester, he would be sent on to Hon. David E Nicholson, who had charge of the Wallingford station. He was then sent to Mr. Thrall at Rutland and then to Dr. Josiah W. Hale of Brandon. Dr. Hale then sent him to Hon. E.D. Barber at Middlebury and then to Lawrence Biglow in Burlington, where he would stay until sent on to Hon. Lawrence Brainard in St. Albans, who got him safely to Canada.

Rokeby Museum lay on the route of the Underground Railroad, but was not originally thought of as an accommodation for fleeing slaves. But, there is some correspondence from that time period regarding fugitives working there for a time, some even spending years there. They lived openly, doing farm work and kitchen work for wages before moving on.

As to the many houses that claim “Underground Railroad” connections, Curtis Johnson, a Vermont architectural historian, offers the following assessment: Many houses that appear to hold places to hide have been renovated over the years. Old houses had cooking fireplaces with foundations in the basement with chimneys going up through the building. When renovated and removed, these left a large “hidden room” in the basement and “hidden closets” in the upper rooms. People stored their vegetables etc. in root cellars that are sometimes mistaken for a “hidden” room. Many of these houses were built after 1865 so would not be eligible for consideration as a “safe house” on the Underground Railroad.

Despite many claims for places that were "stations" on the underground Railroad, within Rutland County only the Ellis house in Fair Haven has the convincing testimony of an ex slave to back its claim. The slave wrote from Canada to thank Zenas Ellis for letting him stay (not surprisingly) in his barn.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, October 11, 1906

BIG PLANT FOR RUTLAND

White Cross Milk Company Proposes Building Plant Here - Will Concentrate Milk by New Process

To concentrate milk to one-fourth its original bulk and thus save three-fourths of the freight charges is the unique proposition that is being made to farmers in the vicinity of Rutland by a representative of the White Cross Milk Company of New York and Pittsfield, Mass. The company's representative has taken a room at the Berwick House, where he is kept busy demonstrating the wonderful process to the many interested people who visit him daily. In his room he has cans of concentrated milk, skim milk powder and baking powder, all manufactured by the process discovered and patented by the promoters of the idea.

Concentrated milk is perhaps the article that will be of most interest to the farmers of this vicinity, and the plan as he outlines it is wonderful, though simple. The milk is bought from the farmers at an unusually high rate and is condensed until it is only one fourth as bulky as before going through the concentrating process. The concentrated product looks and tastes much like ordinary condensed milk, but is in reality vastly different. Condensed milk is made by boiling down ordinary milk, but the new process is not the same in any particular. The milk is heated to a certain point and jets of cold air run through it. In this way all the water and unhealthy matter, including disease germs can be eliminated. To bring back the concentrated milk to its original form, minus all unhealthy matter, three parts of water to one of concentrated milk are mixed, the result being an absolutely pure rich product much superior to ordinary milk. This product can be sold at a much higher rate than the ordinary kind in New York and other large cities. Concentrated milk is said to keep many times longer than any other kind and will not spoil due to delays in shipment. When it reaches the point of distribution, the required amount of water is added and it is ready for the milkman's cart.

Besides concentrated milk the White Cross Company is putting on the market a powder made from skim milk, so many valuable gallons of which are fed to the hogs every day by farmers who have no other use for it. After the cream has been used for making butter, the company buys his skim milk at a good figure and by a concentrating process reduces it to a fine cream-colored powder which can be mixed with water in about even proportions and made into a delicious and healthful drink somewhat similar to "malted milk"

but possessing a great portion of nourishment. This product can be mixed dry with flour, instead of milk, for the making of bread and other baked goods. The White Cross Company has contracts ahead that will keep them busy for the next eight months and are making a thorough canvass to get the enormous amount of skim milk needed for the manufacture of this powder.

The skim milk powder, when mixed with the other ingredients of baking powder, also makes a baking powder.

The promoters of the concern are desirous of putting up a plant in Rutland to handle 30,000 quarts of milk a day. They will not locate here unless this amount can be assured, but it is the opinion of their local representative that there will be a plant in active operation here next spring.

October 18, 1906

Dr. J. A. Mead of Rutland rather astonished the farmer legislators Tuesday night at Montpelier by his plain and common sense talk on a matter that interested them. His explanation of the concentrated milk plants that are to be established in Burlington, St. Albans, Rutland and St. Johnsbury brought out the idea of a new and valuable market for dairy products and the demonstration of Mr. Pelton, the promoter, will be awaited with interest.

[I assume this is what we know as powdered milk. Did this plant really come to Rutland? I could not find it listed in the City Directories. Is it maybe another "almost" for Rutland?]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, September 17, 1966

NEW DOWNTOWN SHOPPING CENTER TO BE BIG—ANY WAY YOU LOOK AT IT

The Grant's department store is scheduled to open in the Rutland Shopping Plaza Oct 12. Manager, George Layman said the store would have 76,000 square feet of floor space. Merchandise will be displayed on two miles of counters. Customers will have a choice of products with a total value of between \$700,000 and \$850,000.

A 125-seat restaurant will occupy the south end of the huge store. Also featured will be a beauty salon and a "full-service" garage with facilities for parts replacement, wheel alignment and repairs.

Grant's will have its own service department for the appliances it sells [Bradford electronics], a sporting goods department and even a custom drapery shop.

A computer, located in the company's regional headquarters in Boston will be used to keep track of the store's merchandise. Cards are sent to Boston telling how much merchandise has been sold each day. The machine digests this information and informs the company how much of any item Rutland's Grant's needs.

The store will employ about 200, full-time and part-time people. 188 will be local as approximately 12 employees come with the company. The store will be the second largest of the Grant chain stores in New England.

The manager said that no "gimmicks" are planned for the Columbus Day opening though plenty of opening-day specials will be available.

Mayor Harold J. Nichols extended the official greetings of the city to Layman and his store Friday. The mayor said: "The shopping plaza will be the greatest asset to Rutland that I can remember. We are going to have the number-one shopping center in the state."

On behalf of Rutland retailers, Donald Liddell said: The location of Grant's in downtown Rutland will be a boon to us all by bringing business to the center of town." President of the Rutland Region Chamber of Commerce, Henry M. Carris, told Layman the stores in the new shopping center would provide a

volume of jobs comparable to what would be gained by the arrival of an industry.

The demise of the W.T. Grant store in Rutland came in 1976 when the entire company was bankrupted.

[Personally, I thought my seven-year old son had done them in when he ate seven servings at the "all you can eat" event at Grant's restaurant].

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Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, Tuesday, October 17, 1900

TWO PRISONERS ESCAPE

Two prisoners escaped from the House of Correction last evening shortly after 6 o'clock, while the rest of the inmates were at supper. They were two young men named Jerry Race and Gilbert Reynolds. They got out through a corridor window in the north wing, on the east side of the building, by springing back a bar. Had it not been dark the escape could have been seen from State Street east of the bridge.

Race had been playing sick since Sunday and his cell door was left open. Reynolds hid himself when the prisoners were marched into the dining room for supper, and the pair soon procured a board and sprung a bar in the window. Before leaving they broke into the prisoners' shaving kit and secured a razor.

The absence of the two young men was discovered immediately after supper. Deputy Superintendent Richmond notified officers in Rutland and the surrounding towns and organized a search party of House of Correction guards and citizens. A man was sent out to the barn to get Duke, the bloodhound, but returned saying that the dog was gone. Duke was fed and shut in the barn at 5:30 o'clock and could not easily have gotten out by himself. The natural supposition is that the escaping prisoners took him with them in their flight.

Race is a sickly young man, 21 years old. He was arrested at East Middlebury for horse stealing and his sentence would not have expired until July 1, 1902. It is thought that he cannot stand much hardship or fatigue.

Reynolds is also 21 years of age. He was committed from Wallingford for larceny and his time would have been up the 1st of next July.

Both men wore the regulation gray prison suits and so far as known, had no money or weapon other than the razor.

Up to an early hour this morning nothing had been heard of either of the fugitives. The search party spent the night watching the roads and railroad stations.

Wednesday, October 17, 1900

Jerry Race and Gilbert Reynolds, the two young men who escaped from the house of Correction Monday evening, are still at large. Duke, the bloodhound, whom they took with them in their flight, returned yesterday morning in time for a late breakfast. His collar looked as if he had been tied to a tree and broken away. Superintendent Morgan took Duke to Wallingford Tuesday, where the officers thought they had tracks of the fugitives, but the dog failed to strike the trail. Mr. Morgan looks for the early capture of the men.

Thursday, October 18, 1900

[Weather report: The summits of Killington and Shrewsbury appeared covered with snow yesterday.]

ESCAPED PRISONERS CAUGHT

Gilbert Reynolds and Jerry Race, the two prisoners who escaped from the House of Correction Monday night, are again behind the bars. They were captured by Constable C. L. Higgins of Wallingford while they were eating breakfast at the house of Edward Schumb in that town about 9:30 o'clock yesterday morning. They were brought to this city on the 11:00 o'clock train and taken immediately to their old boarding place across the creek. Both men showed the effects of exposure and were glad to get back to comfortable quarters.

Edward Schumb is a brother-in-law of Reynolds, and it was thought all along that the prisoners would visit his house. Tuesday morning Schumb found the men in his barn and went to notify Constable Higgins, who is a near neighbor, but before the constable arrived at the barn the men had escaped into the woods. Word was sent at once to the House of Correction, and Superintendent Morgan took the bloodhound Duke to Wallingford, but the dog was unable to do anything toward trailing his former captors. Although a vigorous search was made all day Tuesday, nothing was seen of the men. Constable Higgins watched the Schumb barn all Tuesday night and when by daylight the fugitives had not put in an appearance he gave up and went home.

About 9 o'clock Wednesday morning Race and Reynolds came to Schumb's house again and asked for breakfast. Schumb took them in, gave them food, and sent for Constable Higgins. As Mr. Higgins approached the house Reynolds came to the door and said he would give himself up. Race, who was sitting at the table eating, also surrendered without making any trouble. The

constable allowed the men to finish their breakfast and then put handcuffs on them.

The fugitives had obtained citizen's clothes. Constable Higgins says he found a basket in Schumb's barn containing some articles of clothing, among which he recognized a coat belonging to Joseph Reynolds, the father of Gilbert, who lives in Wallingford and is 84 years old.

As a result of their jail breaking Race and Reynolds will commence serving their sentences over again. The prisoners say they would not have given themselves up had it not been for the severity of the weather. They were two very crestfallen looking men when they were brought back to the House of Correction. In regard to the dog Duke, they assert that he followed them of his own accord and deny that they ever tied him up.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, June 20, 1967

A CITY SURROUNDED

What nation would allow itself to be completely surrounded by another nation, as the town surrounds the City of Rutland? No fair minded person could fail to see the dangers inherent to the well-being of the People's Municipality of Rutland.

If these things were ordered as they seem to be among nations, the city would have mobilized long since amid a welter of claims about town threats to the city's internal security, like severing the city's water lines or polluting the reservoir. From there it would be only a short step to the municipalization of all motor scooters and staging them at the Fairgrounds and Rotary Field for "defense".

The town never replaced the bridge that burned in 1952 between Park Street and the Creek Road. We'd call that a hostile act, and send a patrol right through the Billings farm to the Quarterline Road. Then we'd mop up the eastern sector, and if Mendon demurred, we'd remind them that only Theodore Corsones and Ellery Purdy stood between us and East Mountain.

A northern battalion, meanwhile, would have seized Mill Village and could move up the East Pittsford Road as far as the old dam, unless there was a threatening move from the fortress of Col. Taylor, in which case our forces would assume defensive positions, relocating everybody on the Post Road in a concentration camp built on the ruins of the auto shops of Sam Stowell and Charles Shortle, who by that time would have already fled into exile in Clarendon.

There would be some brisk street fighting around Andrew Orzel's place in Center Rutland, no doubt, but we'd circumvent that with a parachute drop to seize Alva Howe's property, and a drive down the East Proctor Road. If Rosen & Berger didn't surrender unconditionally, we'd move at 'em from Boardman Hill and Barrett Hill, simultaneously.

A brilliant campaign, lasting three days at most. Shrieking crowds would hail a triumphant Mayor Nichols at a vast rally on Merchants Row. He would proclaim "the Eternal Peace of Greater Rutland," and a day or two would pass before an alderman would mention the "grave dangers" existing to the peace, from Proctor and West Rutland...

Forty-three years have passed. The City of Rutland stands firm. There is one question I wonder about. Is the City of Rutland isolated from the outside world? Try to go somewhere by bus Oops, we don't have a bus to go anywhere except for our local bus. There is a saying, "You can't get there from here, and you can't get here from there!" Of course, if you can get yourself to White River Jct. you can go anywhere you want, by bus, except for back home to Rutland!! HELP, Downtown Rutland Development----- wouldn't it help development if a bus could even pass through Rutland?

#595

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, December 21, 1967

BOARD STUDYING POOR FARM, PINE HILL FOR HIGH SCHOOL SITE

The Rutland School Board has jumped the first two hurdles in its plans for a new high school for the city. The board has hired an educational consulting firm to draw up the curriculum. It has also hired two architects to complete detailed planning for the building.

Two publicly owned sites within Rutland are being considered, Pine Hill and the site of the former city poor farm on Woodstock Avenue. A decision on the site will be made by February.

The city needs at least 40 acres of land to build the proposed multi-million-dollar high school. The school is being planned to replace Rutland High School and Rutland Junior High School, which are overcrowded.

Before the board can decide on a site, it must weigh several factors. Size is the most important. The board must also decide alternative uses for the sites, the cost of the preparation of the site, its location in relation to the transportation of students, growth patterns in the city and how well the site fits the proposed building.

Both Pine Hill and the Poor Farm property are large enough.

The Pine Hill property, located in the northwest section of the city near Pine Hill Park, contains approximately 42 acres. The former farm property, located on Woodstock Avenue, has 44 acres. Both sites are located near city owned lands. If more property were needed, it would be available.

The largest of the two sites, the former poor farm, is divided into two parts. Twenty-five acres of land are located on the south side of Woodstock Avenue, east of Stratton Road. The other 19 acres are located on the north side of the major highway.

The board likes the site because of its ease of access, because the land is relatively flat, and because test borings of the ground have proven favorable to the construction of buildings. If this site is selected the property on the north side of Woodstock Avenue would probably be used for an athletic field. The south side of the property would probably be used for the school building.

and parking. The major disadvantage is the non-central location. But that same fact is also one of the chief disadvantages for the Pine Hill site.

Another disadvantage of the Pine Hill site is that the topography limits the type of building that could be constructed there. Two-thirds of it is rocky and wooded. Some of the land is also on a slope.

If that site were chosen, the building would have to be constructed against the sloping section. The remainder, a large meadow, could be used as an athletic field. The past history of the Pine Hill site could also be a disadvantage. It was under water during the 1927 and 1947 floods, as nearby East Creek overflowed.

The major disadvantage of that site is accessibility. No major roads lead to Pine Hill. Traffic would have to travel to the school along Crescent Street or Pierpoint Avenue. The property is also cut off from the city, it is bordered by the Rutland Country Club on the north, East Creek on the east and Oak Street on the south.

The disadvantage of the rocky forestland could become an aesthetic advantage in that the building could be built against the cliff like a small stairway. Each story would be entered from the ground and terraced with walkways. That type of setting would take advantage of the view of East Mountain.

[Thank heaven the aesthetic advantage wasn't the settling point. Can you just imagine—yes the students would get their daily exercise—if they didn't fall off the walkways looking at the view of East Mountain. And also, today we wouldn't have our more appropriate Pine Hill Park hiking trails that service everyone who likes to hike, bike etc. and have the added pleasure of viewing East Mountain.]



Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, November 12, 1918

**OLD AND YOUNG JOIN IN NOISIEST DEMONSTRATION IN
RUTLAND'S HISTORY; BUSINESS PLACES AND SCHOOLS CLOSED**

Yesterday Rutland celebrated the greatest event in the world's history. Shortly after daybreak the prearranged and continuous blast of the fire alarm and other whistles expressed the joy of old and young at the end of the war. Mayor Henry C. Brislin's official message to the city of the signing of the armistice on the western front, told the great news. The city's demonstration with its continuous noise, music, flags and bunting, parades and unlimited hilarity many times magnified any Fourth of July celebrations.

Everybody in Rutland, able to leave his bed—American and foreign-born—from babes in arms to white haired men and women, took part in the celebration.

At 6:30 am, the roadway in front of the Herald, where bulletins had been posted, was black with people anxiously seeking the official news of the event and at 7 o'clock it seemed as though half the population was out in the business district, armed with all sorts of noise-making instruments, horns, bells of all sizes, whistles, rattlers, tin pans and other metal disks, pounded into innumerable shapes by the heavy banging.

By 8 o'clock, hundreds of persons were formed in parade style and were marching the streets and by 9 o'clock, thousands were in line ready for the official parade of the day. Headed by Mayor Brislin, who marched between a representative of the Army and the Navy, following, of course, an American flag. Practically three miles of citizens fell into line, parading both the business and residential districts.

This line included the Rutland City band, Italian band, Rutland Fife and Drum corps, Sons of Veterans, members of Roberts Post, Grand Army of the Republic, and other fraternal organizations. Many were in automobiles and these were decorated with the red, white and blue of the national colors, and many carried the colors of the allied nations.

In the afternoon the members of Rutland lodge, Loyal Order of Moose, headed by its band, paraded the principal streets, while all day long automobile parties, armed with horns, bells and other noise-making tools, rode the streets continually. In the evening the members of Rutland lodge of Elks, headed by the Italian band, were in prominence on the streets and this

spectacle furnished enthusiasm for the rest of the crowd, which needed little to stir up the celebrating spirit.

The events of the day, which were almost continuous, started with the blowing of the fire whistle, which was immediately followed by other whistles of manufacturing plants, and 10 or 12 engines in the railroad yards so that for more than half an hour it was impossible to carry on a conversation in the business district.

The delegation of white-haired veterans, who could look back to the time when the end of the American Civil War was celebrated over a half century ago, were vigorously applauded as they passed through the streets. Not far from them was a delegation of Rutland City officials and businessmen, led by Frank M. Wilson, who vigorously beat time on a snare drum.

Another division, which attracted much attention, was the Italian section. Led by a band of their countrymen, a large number of men who claim the southern European ally as their native land, marched with much enthusiasm, singing the Italian hymn, waving flags, both Italian and American, and some of them dancing as they kept their place in the procession.

The flag borne at the head of the big parade was a gift of Frank M. Wilson. When the procession was forming a group condemned the old flag as too dingy for so great an occasion and started to take up a collection for the purchase of a new one, when Mr. Wilson volunteered to furnish a flag and immediately produced it.

Last evening and through the earlier part of the night, the younger portion of the populace continued the celebration. Red fire was burned in the streets, the horn blasts and bell ringing and shouting eclipsing any of the big carnival nights of the past. Groups of men and boys paraded the streets through the hours, wearing out their exuberance only through fatigue. The last official stunt was the burning of the Kaiser in effigy on the gridiron on Baxter field, a ceremony that was attended by hundreds of the younger element.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Weekly Herald, November 15, 1906

SCHOOL BOYS IN COURT

Eleven Youths Answer to Summons – Charged With Maliciously Destroying Property

As a result of the pranks and damages by about 200 Rutland boys, 11 youths appeared in City Court yesterday in answer to warrants issued in which they were charged with willfully and maliciously destroying property which did not belong to them, but to the City of Rutland.

The warrants were served on the following: John Creed, George Kingsley, James Smith, Elbridge Wood, George Dunklee, George Sabin, Stephen Lalor, Charles Ellwood, Herman Lavanture, Edward Copps and Eugene Cook. These names, by no means, include the whole of the crowd that were in the Boulevard school [later called Abraham Lincoln School. Lincoln Avenue was once named Lincoln Boulevard]. As one of the boys said, "They flocked into the building like so many cattle." As early as 8:30 a.m. yesterday morning the boys of the high school were found in groups, mostly near the City courtroom, talking over what had been expected for the past two weeks, the trial of the "village cut-ups." A number of the boys were brought before Judge Willis M. Ross, most of them pleading guilty, some calling for their parents while one "refused to state his position." While the court was in the midst of the examination of one alleged culprit, Attorney T. W. Moloney appeared and explained to the court his position, stating that the persons were all under age and their pleas could not be accepted. In a short time most of the pleas of "guilty" were changed to "not guilty," and yesterday afternoon was set aside for the trial of three of the boys. At 2 o'clock the cases were continued until next Wednesday afternoon, it being understood that in the meantime the boys would get together and by subscription pay the damages done by them.

An immensely interesting point in connection with the case is that of the police. The morning after Halloween the whole town was crying, "Down with the Rutland police force." The aldermen took up the cry and demanded an investigation, also offering a reward of \$25 for the arrest and conviction of the boys responsible for damage to the city schoolhouse property. But when the alderman who was at the front in pushing through the motion found his son in the trouble, he was there to defend him.

Probably nothing more will be done with the matter as the boys intend to repay the city for the damage. The general opinion has been that the clock

destroyed in the schoolhouse was maliciously done, but this, according to the boys responsible, was a mere accident, which they have explained.

[Apparently Rutland's Halloweens of the past were not problem free!]

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, Wednesday, November 15, 1933

DRIVERLESS HORSE, HEADED FOR HOME, LANDS IN CITY PARK

"Did any of your men find a horse and wagon around the streets anywhere?" Police Chief Roy H. Leonard was asked yesterday morning, by Patrick Shelvey of Pittsford.

This type of question has of late years become something much out of the ordinary and it almost startled the police chief, who asked: "A horse and wagon?"

Scarcely had Shelvey left police headquarters after learning that local officers had not seen a horse and wagon about the streets, when a telephone call informed police that a stray horse, dragging an unoccupied buggy, had been found near the stone crusher plant in City Park on Pine Hill.

It appears that Shelvey stopped on Pine Street to visit friends. His horse, becoming impatient because of the long wait, started for home. However, the animal took the wrong road, but the right direction. When it arrived at the end of the road at the stone crusher, it stopped and just stood waiting until somebody came along. Police notified the owner where his property was.

[Just thought it was a cute story.]

Rutland Daily Herald, Friday, November 17, 1933

FIVE BELOW ZERO MARKS NEW NOVEMBER RECORD

The Midwest, with its premature winter weather, has nothing on Vermont. Early yesterday morning the thermometer at the government observation station on West Street registered five degrees below zero.

This established a new November record for the eighteen years in which the station has been functioning.

A year ago yesterday was a more reasonable day with a low mark of 30 and a high of 49.

Saturday, November 18, 1933

UNSEASONABLE COLD BRING EARY SKATING

Although most adults frowned on the unseasonable winter weather of the last few days, many boys and girls welcomed it. The below zero temperature caused ice to form on the surface of ponds and many a pair of skates were taken from their bags to be sharpened.

A few venturesome lads went skating yesterday on Rocky Pond on Pine Hill, where the ice was reported to be three inches thick.

Beside Hillard's Pond near Calvary Cemetery, the boys are building a "warming house" for use when the ice is considered safe to bear the weight of a crowd of young people.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland Daily Herald, January 23, 1868

DESTRUCTIVE FIRE!

Cramton's Block and Adjacent Buildings Consumed

Again our village has been visited by a devouring fire, and though by no means strangers to its ravages, we now have to chronicle the most destructive conflagration which has ever taken place in our village, or this immediate vicinity, involving the consuming of Cramton's Block on Merchants' Row, one of the finest business blocks in Rutland, as well as the adjoining building, owned by B. M. Bailey, and a wooden building in the rear of Cramton's Block, owned by Mr. Cramton and occupied as a workshop by . T.S. Gilson & Co.

The alarm was given about 2:30 am yesterday morning and upon the arrival of the firemen and citizens at the scene of the fire, it was wholly confined to the workshop of Mr. Gilson. The prospects were for some time quite favorable to the quelling of the flames without any very serious loss. But, a wooden platform and stairway that stood between the shop and Cramton's main building afforded an easy means of communication for the fiery monster. While the firemen, apprehending no danger in other quarters were still busy in endeavoring to hold the fire in check in the building in which it originated, it had gained a firm foothold in the main building and likewise communicated to the building of Mr. Bailey. Constructed of wood, it afforded an easy prey to the increasing flames and was quickly reduced to a heap of shapeless ruins. The building was occupied by Messrs. Bailey & Parker, jewelers; Mrs. Mower, milliner; Drs. Lawton, dentists and Chas. J. S. Randall, as a dwelling. The property of all except Mr. Randall was saved, though as may be presumed, in a damaged condition.

Meanwhile and almost unexpectedly, the fire had gained such headway in Cramton's block, as to render the vigorous efforts of the firemen and citizens to stay its progress futile even though streams of water were steadily poured upon it. The attention of the occupants was now turned chiefly to saving their goods. The building had no less than twenty-two occupants and quite a bit of confusion was experienced in removing its contents. Thanks to the hearty aid by some citizens, the greater portion of the merchandise of the tenants was removed before the fire had reached it.

W. G. Veazey, attorney and counselor succeeded in saving most of his law library, though in such a condition as will require considerable time and

trouble in collecting it. His office furniture was all lost. Col. Veazey is the reporter of the decisions of the Supreme Court of Vermont and we are happy to announce that through the forethought and care of Mr. Veazey his first efforts were bestowed upon securing and placing beyond damage all papers and decisions that had come into his possession pertaining to the forthcoming volume of reports, although all the papers and decisions relating to the previous reports, which had been printed, were destroyed; so that the profession and the State will be put to no inconvenience.

Sad as this catastrophe is to our town, we have no doubt our citizens will see at an early day a new structure rising, Phoenix-like, from its ashes, in finer and enlarged proportions.

Tidbits From Then and Now

Rutland County Independent, December 15, 1866

1866 HOLIDAYS 1867

Christmas and New Years

SAWYER & DUNN,

Would call the attention of their friends, patrons and the public generally, to the fact that their holiday goods are now in stock and we cordially invite all to examine them before making their selections. You will find us ready and willing to show our goods whether you wish to purchase or not.

S. & D. have everything in the way of Ladies Work Boxes and writing desks in black walnut, rosewood, mahogany, etc. Call and see them.

S. & D. have given more than usual attention this season to the wants of the little folks. We have never had such pretty books with such pretty pictures in so pretty bindings as this season. As for games and such things we have got every thing. Come and see them.

We have not forgotten the boys and their researches for amusing and instructive books. We would mention particularly the American Boys books of sports and games. Optics Army and Navy Stories, Woodville Stories, Boat Club Stories. Altogether presenting such a collection of books as the boys have not seen in Rutland. John or Barker will be happy to show all these books whenever the boys drop in. Don't all come at once.

S. & D. would also say to the Misses that their wants have been anticipated and for every book for the boys we have one equally attractive for the girls. We have over seventy varieties of diaries all styles and all sizes. We keep the best assortment in this County and we know our prices can't be beat. Some of them are very nicely bound and suitable for presents.

S. & D. have hundreds of fancy and useful articles, especially intended for presents at this season, which cannot be mentioned here, which fact makes it necessary all should visit our store and look over the stock.

Sawyer & Dunn keep in Clark's Block in the same store with Clark & Brothers, jewelers, corner of Merchants Row and West Street, Rutland, VT.

[Today, the 2010 Holidays offer book gifts in the form of "e-Books" such as Barnes & Noble's *Nook*; Amazon's *Kindle* and Apple's, *I-pad*].

Some other interesting tidbits from the same paper:

If you have any money or clothing which you can readily do without, send it to some charitable institution as a contribution towards alleviating the miseries the poor experience during the winter—Remember, however small your donation, it is always welcome.

Vermont's Highest Mountains—

Hon. Hosea Doten assigns to the highest mountain in the town of Sherburne the name of Killington Peak, and by careful measurements by levels, starting from the railroad track at White River Junction, he has ascertained its height above the ocean to be 4220 87-100 feet. Prof. A. Guyot of N. J., measured the same mountain, starting from the railroad track at Rutland, and made its height, by barometrical measurement, 4221 39-100 feet. This test, by two scientific modes of measurement, must be satisfactory and give to Killington Peak the second rank in Vermont mountains--Camel's Hump, the beautiful, is the third in rank, and Mansfield, the sublime, the first.

Our townsman, W. P. Merriam, has constructed a railroad from "Sawyer's Mill" to within one mile of the summit of Killington Peak. It is to be used mainly in transporting logs and timber to the mill—but we presume he will not refuse to take through passengers.